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Tonyboy admits meeting Bishop Cruz but...

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ENLIGHTENED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

"LUDONG": Going, going...

RP's most expensive fish faces extinction

By Kristine L. Alave

SAVE the Aahong.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has raised the alarm on the dwindling number of lushay, a species of mullet considered to be the country's most

RP'S MOST A6

RP gets $434-M grant from US

Money meant to fight poverty, corruption

By Norman Bordadora

NEW YORK—The United States granted the Philippines $434-million (P19 billion) in financial assistance hoping it would lead to economic reforms and spur Filipinos to help build their own country, instead of looking for better opportunities abroad.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton aired the call at the signing of the assistance compact at Waldorf Astoria hotel on Thursday (Friday in Manila)—one of the highlights of the weeklong visit of President Aquino, who witnessed the signing.

The money, intended to be used to build roads and carry out projects aimed at reducing poverty and fighting corruption, was awarded under the US-run Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC) chaired by Clinton.

The MCC, an independent US foreign aid agency, aims to help developing countries reduce poverty as long as they meet performance criteria on democratic principles and the rule of law.

"We hope that, Mr. President, the

RP GETS A11

WOW President Aquino thanks US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton after the signing of the Philippines-Millennium Challenge Corp. grant on Thursday.

TOO YOUNG TO BEAR THE BURDEN A girl cuddles her sister after a fire hits Sitio San Roque in Barangay Pag-asa, Quezon City, a day after residents figured in a violent clash with members of a demolition team.

138 YEARS AND STILL UNFINISHED Gaudí's masterpiece, the Sagrada Familia, is now Barcelona's most important landmark and most popular tourist attraction even if construction which started in 1882 and it is expected to continue until 2026.

THE SHELLS at La Sagrada Familia Church crypt and 2 more shells donated by the Philippines. The shells were part of Architect Gaudí's design. He made special supports for them.

Giant RP clams to adorn famous Barcelona church

By Jerome Aning

SIX PAIRS of giant clams—shipped from the Philippines—will serve as holy water fonts, adorning the world-famous La Sagrada Familia Church in Barcelona, Spain.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, citing a report from the Philippine consulate in Barcelona, said yesterday the giant shells (Tridacna gigas) were turned over by the Philippines in simple rites at the main nave of the church on Sept. 18.

GIANT A11

Palace to IIRC: Your findings are only recommendatory

By Nikko Dizon and Christian V. Esguerra

"YOUR findings are merely recommendatory." Malacañang yesterday reminded members of the Incidents Investigating and Review Committee (IIRC) even as Justice Secretary Leila de Lima believes it is time for Malacañang to release in full its findings on the Aug. 23 hostage crisis following leakage to the media of its confidential portions.

"If I were one of the officials in the Palace now, I would try to communicate with the President who is in the United States, contact him and inform him about the leakage and ask him for his instructions to release the report," De Lima told reporters yesterday.

"One Palace official should be able to give that advice," she said.

De Lima, who chairs the IIRC that probed the hostage tragedy, said she was certain Malacañang would be in

PALACE A11

Aquino stops shanties' demolition in QC

By Christian V. Esguerra, Nikko Dizon and Julie M. Aurelio

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday rushed time out from his United States schedule to intervene in the violent demolition of squatter shanties that left several people hurt in Barangay Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City, on Thursday.

Mr. Aquino ordered the National Housing Authority (NHA) to suspend the relocation of families situated in the 240-hectare North Triangle property until a "comprehensive plan" was crafted, said Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa.

The order came after hundreds of squatters blocked Manila's main thoroughfare for hours on Thursday to resist the demolition of their homes.

"The President is saddened by the events that transpired and has ordered the NHA to ensure that any future relocation plan be implemented peacefully," Ochoa said.

Several policemen and squatters were injured and traffic snarled for

AQUINO A11

Ready or not, 'Ondoy' can happen again

By TJ Burgonio

"WE ARE ready for a [Tropical Storm] 'Ondoy' part two," said Benito Ramos, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

But Metro Manila remains unprepared for another powerful storm of Ondoy's magnitude and destructiveness, according to engineering, urban planning, design and development experts.

"For emergency response, we are prepared. But in terms of infrastructure, we are not," said architect Felino Palafox Jr.

The possibility of an Ondoy-type storm occurring

READY! A11

NAUTICAL HIGHWAY American soldiers helped rescue residents along Ortigas Extension in Cainta, Rizal, in this file photo taken last year at the height of the floods brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

PCSO has plans how to kill 'jueteng'

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOUR friendly neighborhood "jueteng" bobsuter may soon go legit as the town's all-in-one gambling bet collector.

Amid the fresh controversy over the alleged flourishing of the illegal numbers game even under the new administration, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) is considering a drastic overhauling of the existing, legal Small Town Lottery (STL) in an ambitious bid to "kill" jueteng once and for all.

PCSO Chair Margarita Juico yesterday revealed a plan to tap

PCSO A15

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

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P15,310,235.80

COA smells something fishy in own backyard

By Lolit B. Salaverria

GOVERNMENT OFFICES have not implemented nearly half of the Commission on Audit's (COA's) recommendations on improving their records and the prudent use of funds in 2009, the watchdog on accountability has disclosed.

Surprisingly, the COA, which keeps track of irresponsible spending and questionable practices in government agencies, has also found lapses in its own backyard.

In its audit report on itself, the COA found that nearly half of its 61,571 recommendations were not to the enforcement.

In its 2009 report, COA said that 30,920 of its recommendations had yet to be implemented. Only 17,691 had been fully implemented, it noted, and 13,154 partially implemented.

Among those ignored was the recommendation that certain incentives and bonuses given out by government officials should be disallowed, other COA reports showed.

The COA also produced 35,228 audit and cash examination reports, 6,306 of them annual audit reports. Another 9,959 were cash examination reports and 18,963 were audit reports on barangays.

In its biennial audit, COA found that the failure of it collecting P874,322 in receivables was because the accounts having late decreases for due to 20 years. The people who should pay the amounts have also left the COA.

There overlooked amount of, among others, payments for training materials, overtime fees, lost reading materials, rental expenses, dormitory fees and rental fees. Another reason for the difficulty in collecting the amounts is the lack of available records to support the claims.

COA wants write-off

The COA has requested that it write off the long outstanding receivables, because the possibility of collecting them is nil.

The COA also found that the collections of its Caraballo Autonomous Region (CAR) office were not consistently deposited daily and issues as required in the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual, thus exposing government funds to possible loss or misuse.

But the acting auditor in the CAR office explained that she was unable to deposit the collections daily because her office was manned by only one person.

The auditor is also tasked with preparing the monthly reports and of validating all monthly dues of validists and other bills. Travel to the bank would also take at least one and a half hours, meaning that depositing the collections would take three to four hours per day. This makes it impossible for her to deposit the collections daily.

Undelivered purchases

The audit also found the CAR office in Region 4 accumulated P852,152 worth of undelivered purchases, which depicted the office of immediate use of necessary supplies and materials.

Five regional offices also failed to conduct a physical count of its property, plant and equipment (PPE) or to prepare the corresponding report, thus the existence of P153,650 million worth of PPE could not be ascertained, the COA also said.

The audit agency also found that its Baguio III office building in the Pampanga Capitol Compound remained unused for 14 years after value and thus lower bit the province in 1995. It said that this exposed the building to further deterioration.

Merci seeks delay in SC argument

CHIEFTAIN Menardo Guiterez yesterday asked for a deferment of the oral arguments set by the Supreme Court on her petition to stop the House of Representatives from conducting impeachment proceedings against her.

Court spokesman Midas Marquez said that the Ombudsman filed a motion asking the Tribunal to reset the oral arguments for Oct. 13, instead of Sept. 30 as originally scheduled, since documents from parties to the case have yet to be submitted to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is from Director Executive Affairsom party-list Rep. Rita Hermosa Marquez and the Bayang Ayanmang Makabayan Bayan, who filed the two impeachment cases against Gutierrez in the House of Representatives, to comment within 10 days of the High Court's issuance of the motion to cause order.

Acting C.J. the High Court issued a temporary restraining order, instead of a temporary restraining order, against the impeachment proceedings because the act that Gutierrez wanted to be restrained was already ongoing.

Airport cards with Noynoy's photo recalled

By Jerome Aning

OFFICIALS OF the Bureau of Immigration yesterday said they already ordered the pullout from the country's airports all the arrival and departure cards bearing the photo of President Aquino.

In a statement, Immigration officer-in-charge Ronaldo Lebamia said he mentioned an earlier request by the bureau to the card printer and to the various airlines to stop the distribution of the cards in compliance with the presidential directive prohibiting the placement of names and photographs of public officials in government projects.

Aquino was reportedly displeased after seeing his face on the cards while he and his entourage were at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Monday for their flight to the United States.

Lebamia said the cards will soon be pulled out of the airports as the supplier has started replacing them with cards without the President's photograph.

He clarified that the cards were printed in July or before he was named OIC of the bureau and that the cards' distribution could not be stopped immediately because the card supplier had asked for more time to replace them.

Seven hours, the bureau's airport operations division chief, disclosed that as early as the first week of August he already requested a friend Inc., the card supplier, to stop printing and distributing the cards bearing the President's picture.

Gun ban for youth, barangay polls is on

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S TIME to lock away those guns once again.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and yesterday it would strictly implement a nationwide gun ban starting today for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 25.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz said that beginning 12:01 a.m. today only authorized law enforcement personnel in their proper uniforms and while on duty would be allowed to bring their firearms in public. So also and the same prohibition applies to active members of the military.

He added that all permits to carry firearms outside of residences will be suspended.

The gun ban, Cruz said, would last until Nov. 10.

"Let's not bring an licensed firearms even if you have permits. Only soldiers and policemen and other law enforcement agencies on active duty are allowed to bring firearms," Cruz said.

He added that police will be setting up checkpoints nationwide to interdict gun ban violators.

For the May 10 elections, a total of 3,048 gun ban violators were arrested, with 307 coming from the Cebuanon region. Also, a total of 2,804 guns were confiscated. The gun ban for the May 10 elections ran from Jan. 13 to June 7.

Recently, the PNP, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) held a joint conference in Camp Crame to establish Task Force Hope (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections) Bantay that would iron out security preparations for the elections.

In a brief press briefing during the conference, PNP Chief Director General Raul Bacalzo said they are considering the inclusion of around 12,000 barangays in their watchlist of potential election hotspots. There are a total of 42,025 barangays around the country.

Bacalzo also said they have a list of partisan armed groups that include 107 identified groups. The PNP chief said they are in the process of validating the list.

He also said that besides the gun ban and the establishment of checkpoints, the PNP, the AFP and Comelec have agreed to undertake three more tasks for their security preparations.

These include the establishment of joint security control centers to monitor the security situation, the pullout of security detail from politicians and VIPs (very important persons) and the establishment of a list of the proper decorum and conduct of security forces during the election period.

Comelec taps 6 agencies as deputies

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) is tapping six government agencies to serve as its deputies to ensure an orderly and peaceful conduct of the nationwide barangay elections next month.

Among the agencies the Comelec has identified to perform specific duties during the polling on Oct. 25 include the Department of Education, the Department of Finance, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Energy and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

In a resolution, the Comelec ordered the former department to ensure that all city and provincial treasurers are present once needs be, four and other election duty to take custody and keep election returns, ballot boxes and other election paraphernalia.

Teachers' duties

It also asked the education department to disseminate all instructions to public school teachers regarding their duties and functions during the balloting and the use of public schools as polling precincts.

The energy department has been tasked to ensure uninterrupted power supply on the day and during the election day or until newly elected officials have been proclaimed by the electorate/body.

The Department of Transportation and Communication has been ordered to keep a close eye on the "use, transit and hiring" of transportation facilities by any candidate, political party and other groups engaged in the election campaign.

It was also tasked to keep tabs on the amount paid by the posters for the use of those vehicles, according to the Comelec resolution.

The Comelec also delegated the DPWH to assist the election body in the confiscation of all unlawful election materials nationwide.

Citizen's arm

In a separate ruling, the Comelec announced that it has selected the Public Interest Council for Responsible Voting (PICRV) as its accredited citizen's arm for the forthcoming synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

In appointing the PICRV, the commission on basic understanding the Church-based election watchdog's extensive experience as the election body's citizen's arm.

"[Its] participation during the past electoral exercises, including the recently conducted May 10 automated National and Local Elections, and its commitment to conduct honest, clean, credible and peaceful elections are commendable," stated the ruling.

Comelec records showed that the PICRV has served as the citizen's arm of the poll body during the barangay elections in 1997 and 1994; 1997, 2002 and 2007.

As the accredited citizens' arm in the forthcoming electoral exercise, the PICRV is entitled to receive a soft copy of the computerized voter's list and the fourth copy of the election returns.

M.S.A.

M.S.A.

EVERYBODY HAPPY

Power of purse back in Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE POWER of the purse is back in the hands of lawmakers.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said yesterday that although the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) had been taken away from the public works proposed budget for 2011, it is still "a separate budget by itself."

PDAF, the pork barrel funds of senators and congressmen, is now "lodged" in the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) headed by Abad.

It was Public Works Secretary Bogchie Singson who made this disclosure at the House committee on appropriations' budget hearing for the Department of Public Works and Highways on Wednesday.

In his budget presentation for his department , Singson said that the P90,915.9 billion proposed budget of DPWH did not include PDAF.

"I [PDAF] is a budget in the budgets of DBM," said Singson.

However, Abad denied that this new setup effectively gave him power over the release of the pork barrel to congressmen and senators.

"It is not correct to say that the PDAF will now be under the DBM's budget. It is not," he said in a text message, explaining, in effect, that the legislators have the final say on what to do with their pork barrel.

"Where the legislators allocate their or their district's share will also determine to which agency the allocation will be released," said Abad.

This, Abad, said, means that although the DPM would be administering the disbursement of PDAF, it could not re-allocate or impound the much derided funds that senators and congressmen borrow on their constituents or choose beneficiaries.

Each House member receives P70 million in pork barrel funds each year, while a senator gets P200 million.

The pork barrel allocation amounts to P16,820 billion in the 2011 national budget.

No more budget impoundment

Abad said the new setup was better than the one practiced by the Arroyo administration, which impounded the PDAF of legislators critical of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The legislators are better off under the new setup because, first, their allocation is already guaranteed. Second, they do not need to lobby, for example, with the Executive department to enact their allocation, as what has happened in the past," said Abad, adding:

"And second, since their allocation is transparent and not embedded in some other budget items, they are less at the mercy of the executive's power of impoundment," Abad said.

'Sin tax' scheme roils Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

BELMONTE

THE PROPOSAL to increase the so-called "sin taxes" on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages appears to have rough sailing in the House of Representatives.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. told reporters on Thursday that the House was considering increasing sin taxes since the country had the lowest "sin rates" in the region, as the rates of "sin activities" in the group domestic product.

The House committee on ways and means is currently tackling proposals to raise the excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products to generate more funds for the government.

But opposition members are divided over the proposal to raise by P3 the tax on each pack of cigarettes.

Lo Union Rep. Hector Oreja has raised the loudest voice against the proposed tax, reasoning that higher sin taxes could kill the tobacco industry in the North.

At the initial committee hearing last week, Oreja said taxation "must be reasonable and fair."

"The P3 additional tax may not impact much on higher-priced brands, but on lower-priced brands it could be a big amount," Oreja said.

He added that if the government raises the excise tax, then it should also help the affected tobacco-producing provinces in developing an alternative crop that would be as valuable as tobacco.

"If the intention of raising the excise tax is to kill the industry, then we should start an alternative facilitated for tobacco farmers.

"Tobacco-producing provinces can use their share from the excise taxes to put up an alternative crop. If we kill the tobacco industry, then we should be creating another one. If not, I hope I am not being a doomsday prophet, as killing the tobacco industry in the long run would lead to an

other income woes," said Oreja.

Belmonte countered that the argument against cigarette taxes had always been the same since the "beginning."

"They [users of cigarettes] have been saying that. It's not a drastic increase at all, but they have to adjust, and they are also benefiting from it. The low income to them [tobacco farmers] a big portion of the taxes [from tobacco]," said Belmonte.

Republic Act No. 7171 provides tobacco-producing provinces with a share from the excise taxes.

Provincial Tobacco Administration officers in charge Cristina Lopez informed the committee that in the past, in Region 1 and 2 could surpass tobacco farming in earnings.

"There are really be no substitute for tobacco farming as tobacco is a profitable cash crop. The prices of tobacco leaves do not fluctuate, which assures farmers of good prices," Lopez said.

Lopez said that about two million farmers would be adversely affected if government implemented a higher excise tax on cigarettes.

She said that raising the excise tax could also encourage smuggling and the counterfeiters of cigarettes, which might result in losses in the annual revenue of the government of between P43.6 billion and P59 billion.

Abu Sayyaf member nabbed in drug bust

A SUSPECTED member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) wanted on kidnapping charges, has been arrested while selling illegal drugs during a buy-bust operation conducted by the Quezon City police last month.

Chief Insp. Edwin Basilio, chief of Quezon City Police District's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Group, identified the suspect as Alvin Ladjahalin that Ladjahalin was a member of the faction of slain ASG leader Galib Sadang, also known as Commander Robot.

Basilio said Ladjahalin was selling shabu to an undercover police when he was arrested on Sept. 12, in front of a house along Lanao St., Salem Mosque Compound, Batasan-Cubao.

"He thought we arrested only a drug pusher until we were informed by the Air Force Intelligence Group about his affiliation," Basilio said.

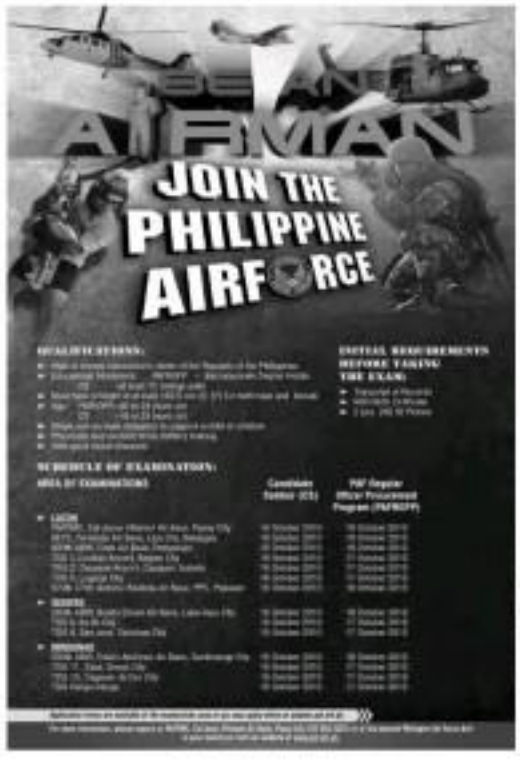
A capitan of the 2000 Atlantic Agency and Security Group [ABG] of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) told the business that the unit had been tracking Ladjahalin since March, but could not arrest him because they could not positively identify him.

"He was always wearing sunglasses and a head cover," the PAF officers who asked not to be named, said.

He said that it was only after Ladjahalin was arrested that military intelligence operatives were able to take photos of him and positively identify him as one of the wanted guards of slain Commander Robot.

Robot was killed by the police during the 2001 crisis that in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

He claimed that Ladjahalin faced a warrant of arrest issued by the Pasig City Regional Trial Court on charges of kidnapping and serious illegal detention in connection with the abduction of six members of the Jehovah's Witness in 2001 in Orchid, Subic. *Nancy C. Carvajal and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*



An Important Reminder on

GSIS HOUSING LOAN AND CONSOLOAN MORATORIUM

The GSIS is reminding its members that the one-year moratorium on **GSIS Housing Loan and Consoloan** payments will end effective September 30, 2010.

Beneficiaries of this moratorium should resume their regular amortization starting this **October, 2010**. This is to ensure that their loan accounts do not accumulate penalties and surcharges.

The GSIS, in 2009, implemented a one-year moratorium on Housing and Consolidated Loan payments to help those who were devastated by natural storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

The one-year repayment deferral program covers only the amortization period from October 2009 to September 2010.

Threat on Noynoy's life? AFP taking it seriously

Career exec named Post Office OIC

A SENIOR CAREER officer has been designated officer in charge of the Philippine Postal Corp. (PPC), replacing Postmaster General Hector Villanueva.

Assistant Postmaster General Antonio de Ingkiano was named OIC by Jose Jolo Ericlo Ug dismissal of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology.

A press statement from the PPC said officials and employees lauded the appointment, saying Dr. Ericlo, who is a lawyer, is the most senior career official of PPC.

The officials and employees pledged their all-out support to Dr. Ericlo so that he can work expeditiously and very harmoniously with the postal service and the problems confronting the PPC, the press statement said.

Villanueva, who was press secretary under President Fidel Ramos, was named postmaster general in 2006 by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

ARMED FORCES chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo David Jr. said he is taking seriously Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin's fears of an assassination threat against President Aquino.

David said reporters he immediately ordered the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isaf) to look into the feared threat after Gazmin told him of his suspicions.

Mr. Aquino is on a week-long visit to the United States to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York and to drum up investor interest in the Philippines.

However, a defense department spokesperson has played down the threat that Gazmin himself had brought up.

Before spokesperson Eduardo Ano said Gazmin's statements about the threat, which he apparently had first mentioned to Cagayan De Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano, had been "taken out of context."

"There's nothing concrete" about an assassination plot, he said.

Gazmin told a radio station last Wednesday that tourists had told him that an assassination plot against the President was already being hatched by Reynaldo Bertosa, a former mayor of Oroquieta City when linked to the notorious Ramong Ilaldeng criminal syndicate.

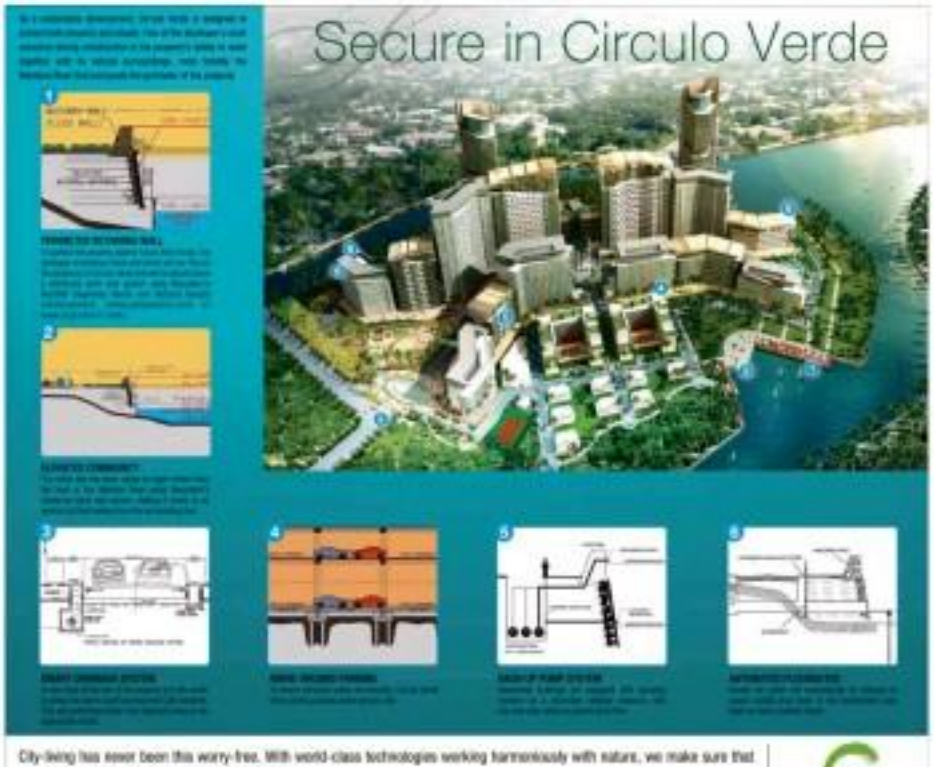
"It was a very candid talk between the Secretary and Mayor Emano who's a very close friend," Ano said.

Dr. David, however, Gazmin's suspicions were serious enough to merit a thorough check.

"I directed the chief of the Isafp to look into it because even if those are rumors, we must take them seriously," he said.

But he admitted that neither the Isafp nor the Presidential Security Group has received a "serious report" about such a threat.

Inna Pascoloyan



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No more spotlight on GMA in NY

By Michael Lim Ubac

MEC's MO: keeper president, her Hungarian War. Glen to Macapagal-Arroyo has found herself on the sidelines of the United Nations (UN) annual general assembly in New York.

While her successor, President Agaton, was befriending with world leaders, including US President Barack Obama, and global business executives, Arroyo attended important yet relief meetings outside of the global stage.

On Sept. 23, Arroyo spoke at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) led by former US President Bill Clinton, according to her spokesperson Elena Bautista-Mata.

The day before, Arroyo met with Queen Rania of Jordan in the "5th Important Dinner for Persons," where she discussed tagging targets on women empowerment and maternal deaths.

Both events, held on the Big Apple, focused on addressing women's issues related to the fulfillment of the UN millennium development goals by 2015.

According to Mata, the former president also held meetings with various philanthropists and international non-governmental organizations to discuss possible projects on women's concerns, environmental issues, infrastructure development, and relief and rehabilitation projects.

Preparing girls

In the MEC-UGI conference, Arroyo talked during the session on "preparing girls for the world."

The former president touted the principal provisions of the comprehensive reproductive health law, which she endorsed into effect for nearly one million schoolgirls.

The wife of retired commander-in-chief Jose Miguel Arroyo and Mercedes Rosal, she said.

In the dinner hosted by the Queen of Jordan, Arroyo shared the time light with other speakers such as Bank Dr. Joseph Ellaya, prime minister of Netherlands, and Ida Odinga, wife of Kenya's Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Gender equality in RP

Arroyo happily reported to fellow women leaders that the Philippines has been at the top of developing economies' rankings in the seven World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Reports for four consecutive years, and "continues to be the highest ranking in Asia."

Under her presidency, she said Filipino women made great strides in areas of business, labor force, literacy rate and life expectancy.

"The country also tops gender equality on life expectancy with women outliving men," she said.

"It is among the top in the world economic participation and opportunity for women with the 2006-2007 Global Empowerment Index Monitor noting that only in the country are women found to be more active in starting business than men," she said in her speech.

"There is a significant increase of women in the labor force with 40 percent of all women now working, topping gender equality among managers, professional and technical workers. The government tops in gender equality among legislators and senior officials and women dominates civil service at the technical level," said Arroyo, the second Filipino woman to become president after President Agaton's mother, the late Cory Aquino.

Magna Carta for women

According to Arroyo, the country continues to be the top performer in gender equality literacy rate and enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education, and life expectancy.

THIS time for true President and now Rep. Gloria Arroyo is hoping to "prepare girls for the world" when she talks during the 5th Clinton Global Initiative conference in New York City. AP PHOTO

She also highlighted that the country has a "comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women, and which is closer to the most predicted victim."

"The Philippines is the only country that has automatic appropriation of 5 percent of national budgets of government agencies for the empowerment of Filipino women. Additional budgets this have been enacted for women such as the law on Anti-Violence Against Women and the Anti-Trafficking Persons Act of 2003, considering that women are the No. 1 victims of human trafficking," she said.

Arroyo, however, realized that like many other countries, the Philippines faced difficulties in reducing maternal mortality (from 160 out of 100 women in 2000 to 65 out of 100 in 2015).

"This is not only a matter of statistics and women empowerment, but more so the promotion of an intact family unit that is the breeding ground of an individual's values and direction for the future," she lamented.

RP's most expensive ...

From page A1

as penance for.

Ludong (scientific name Gecko) [illegible] name Geckoidea [illegible] a known GCRI as lizard and endemic to Cagayan Island, the remains of Cagayan Valley and the new systems of Isabela City and Aklan.

Sarcosuk said said to have a unique traits, such including birth as between P4,000 and P5,000 making it the most expensive fish and only in the Philippines/nations, only joining the prized list the world. It is also declared as the "Pambansang Isda," assigned only to those who can afford.

According to a study made by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), bathing production has considerably declined over the years from around 1.2 million metric tons recorded in 1982.

Reduced size

Not only was there a drop in bathing production, there was also a noticeable drop in the size of the fish, the agency said.

According to BFAR's data, an adult bathing weighed as much as 2.4 kg in the previous years, as of 2005, this average can also down to 500 grams.

"Specimens bought for research purposes were smaller in size and there was hardly anything available," said Dr. Evelyn Arce, research chief of BFAR in Cagayan Valley.

According to the BAI, the species is considered rudest in size, which means it thrives in freshwater but migrates to marine or seawater to spawn. It is a herbivorous fish that feeds on algae living on rocks near rivers mouths.

It is known especially in Cagayan Valley are in the Cagayan Pinakabanan River in the towns of Aparri, Camalaniugan and San Pablo in the province of Isabela, Antonio Galvez in Aglipay, Quirino and Dinapigue reports also in Jones.

Ludong migrates in the ocean to breed, swimming to saltwater to spawn for six days a year from October to December and returning to upstream areas after.

Pukanisan usually starts the run from October to January, when there were some that Cagayan River. But bathing population is also seen with this phenomenon.

Part of unregulated catching, poaching and the dam ordered by habitats and even climate change have led to the decline of its population.

This led to the issuance of Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 31, which prohibits the capture, purchase, sale, possession and canning of bathing for private and public consumption due to its seasonal migration.

'Oplan Sagip Ludong'

As part of its effort to increase the bathing population, the DA also implemented "Oplan Sagip Ludong" on technical research, conservation and production, and promotion, formation and education campaign.

The DA said it would call for the local government to enact ordinances banning the catching of bathing in their areas.

BFAR regional director Joel Agbayani said they also asked the DA to impose a bigger fine for people catching the endangered fish.

"We have requested a penalty of P50,000 or imprisonment of not more than six years," she added.

Risky behavior

The DA said it would also conduct research on the fish, noting that there are not much information on the species' activities and behavior.

"We shall conduct research on its breeding ground and growth, its migratory, as we do not yet have the samples of bathing in time with its spawning on this October," Agbayani said. With reports from Lawrence de Guzman, Jayson Ellaneck

'Demonic' man gets 14,400 years for daughter's rape

3 sentenced to 331 years for gang rape

By Carla P. Gastos
Inquirer Visayas

By Nikko Dizon

BACOLOD CITY—Three gang members were sentenced Wednesday to 331 years each in prison for raping a 13-year-old girl in Bacolod City in 2005.

Bacolod Regional Trial Court Judge Bay Alan Bethan found Melbert Gonzales, Sheridan Zilmo and Jaltord Landino, all in their early 20s, guilty of seven counts of rape and sentenced each of them to seven penalties of reclusion perpetua, or a total of 299 years.

They were also found guilty of rape on three other counts and sentenced to each serve 12 to 17 years imprisonment, or from 36 to 51 years.

The judge ordered the three to pay their victim P75,000 in civil indemnity, P75,000 in moral damages and P25,000 in exemplary damages.

The mother of the victim said she was thankful for the conviction of the three but hoped that the five other culprits in the gang rape of her daughter were also brought to justice.

Court records showed that the victim was returning home from an errand at a convenience store in her subdivision when she met and chatted with the eight young men from the same neighborhood, all of whom were known to her, who were drinking alcohol near the basketball court.

The girl was made to drink alcohol and when she got drowsy, she was brought to a darkened area of the basketball court where the young men took turns in raping her, the court records showed.

The young men were said to be members of a local gang.

Still in large were Jeffrey Lanado, Stephens Hilliard, Willie Ulgasan and a certain Bodoy, while Cooper Landino was reportedly arrested but has not yet been arraigned, court records showed.

A "DEMONIC FATHER" who has perpetrated what could be the "worst cases...of sexual abuse of a minor in the annals of our jurisprudence."

This was how the Court of Appeals described Carlos Henry Ray Umana, 56, in sentencing him to 14,400 years in prison for raping his teenage daughter in 2001 while his wife worked as a domestic helper abroad.

Umana, a bicycle driver, was originally meted out the death penalty by a trial court but the Supreme Court modified it to reclusion perpetua, or 40 years in prison, for each of the 360 counts of rape charged against the accused.

The decision was written by Associate Justice Mario Guariña III, chair of the appellate court's Eighth Division, and concurred to by Associate Justice Jurcros Apolinario Bruselas Jr. and Rodil Zalameda.

Court records showed that Dennis first raped his daughter, then 13 years old, shortly after his wife left to work in Hong Kong in January 2001.

His sexual abuses resumed in April that year and went on every day until May 2002.

"For more than one year and on an almost daily basis, the girl was subjected by her father to the most heinous conduct imaginable," the court said.

The girl was only able to reveal her ordeal to her mother's relatives during a visit to the provinces in May 2002 , refusing to go back home where her father was.

The girl's mother immediately returned to the country and reported the crime to the police.

In his appeal, Dennis denounced his daughter's accusation as an "incredible tale."

He said it would "require unbelievable energy on his part to engage in nightly sexual activity" as he worked all day as a tricycle driver.

He added that he could not have raped his daughter in the presence of her sister who could not out of the room to cry for help.

Dennis claimed that the charges were orchestrated by his wife so that she could get custody of them and marry a foreigner.

But the appellate court gave credence to the victim's testimony.

"This testimony of a rape victim who is still of tender years and humiliated by no less than a person of moral ascendancy in her family is generally given full weight and credence. Case law recognizes the sheer implausibility of young innocents children going public to accuse their fathers of rape if it were not true," the court said.

New Sandigan chief sworn in

By Nikko Dizon

MISSIONARIES: Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval yesterday took his oath before Chief Justice Renato Corona at the Supreme Court in Manila, a statement from the High Court said.

Sandoval is the most senior magistrate of the antigraft court. He has been serving as its acting presiding justice since April this year.

Sandoval graduated cum laude and class valedictorian at the Far Eastern University in 1963.

He was appointed regional trial court judge in Olongapo by then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1981.

Three years later, former President Corazon Aquino appointed him to the Manila RTC, a post he held until his appointment as associate justice to the antigraft court in 1996 by then President Fidel Ramos.

Sandoval was a bar reviewer in criminal law and a law professor at the Ateneo de Manila, University of Santo Tomas, FEU, and New Era University.

Sandoval is also currently part of the Corps of Professors of the Philippine Judicial Academy the Court's education and training arm.

Sandoval is married to Pelagia Sandoval with whom he has three grown children.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 25, 2010
25th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8
Gospel: Lk 8:16-18

While all were amazed at everything Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Listen and remember what I tell you now: The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands." But the disciples didn't understand this saying; something prevented them from grasping what he meant, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

Understanding

"A heathen hidden from others is okay; could not understand it."

All of life is spent growing into the word of God.

We do not understand or do what we cannot visualize.

As we must step open always to hear the word of God freely.

Quezon Communications Foundation, Inc. 2 Mariano M. Vergara Street, Quezon City, 1107 Tel. No. 4 Makati 1 Ave. Quezon City, Tel. No. 7000 Tel. No. 7000 Fax No. 7000 E-mail: [illegible]

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INQUIRER
OPINION

Setting the right tone

EDITORIAL

WHAT A difference a year makes! A little more than a year ago, on July 30, 2009, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo met with US President Barack Obama in the White House during a state visit that was largely characterized by a bloated delegation (with some 20 lawmakers and a large number of several Cabinet and sub-Cabinet men and women, not including presidential staffers and security men) that was expensive and a drain on taxpayers' money. Now, President Aquino is making a working visit to the US without such fanfare. His Cabinet delegation is lean and mean. And there are no congressmen in his party.

During her term, Arroyo largely portrayed herself as a globetrotting president. Nothing fundamentally wrong with this; after all, diplomacy is part and parcel of a working presidency. Nevertheless, considering the high cost of travel, public sensitivity required that costs should be kept to a minimum. But Arroyo seemed not to care. She would charter flights and take along a big number of congressmen and senators allied with her. She would even take a number of kin with her.

Perhaps strong by criticisms about her expensive trips, Arroyo's 2006 meeting with Obama was actually relatively modest. Finally meeting Obama after two failed attempts, she basked in his presence and received some commendatory words for the Philippines' counterterrorism efforts, her stand against North Korea's nuclear-weapons development and her criticism of Burma over the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. Everything went well except that it was later revealed that the Arroyo delegation had dined at Le Cirque in New York and Bobby Van's Steakhouse in Washington, racking up bills of $20,000 and $15,000. Although there was confusion on who actually picked up the tabs, public money was likely used to support the lavish dining of Philippine officials.

The discovery was not a case of nitpicking. No less than a columnist from the New York Post exposed the expensive dinner, citing a previous case in which the sons of Carlos Garcia, the former comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, had been arrested in the US for bulk-cash smuggling. The portrait that emerged was that Philippine officials were going to the US amid an economic recession in order to enjoy the high life at public expense or take their love with them there.

It is this very negative international perception of the irresponsibility and corruption of Philippine officialdom under which Mr. Aquino is laboring as he makes his first appearance on the world stage. To his credit, he has kept his delegation to a minimum and he has kept his trip businesslike and no-nonsense.

It is also to the credit of the leadership of the House of Representatives that no lawmaker is free-loading on the President's entourage. Speaker Feliciano Belmonte said he did not send any House delegation because no invitation had come from Malacañang and no congressman had expressed interest. He said this was well and good.

With a small but effective delegation, President Aquino should impress the international community. In any case, he already has his work cut out for him. He has just addressed the 65th UN General Assembly and moderated the Asean-US Leaders' Meeting hosted by the US and Vietnam. Especially for the latter meeting, Mr. Aquino had an opportunity to shine since Obama has named the Philippines the "coordinating country" in the US relationship with Asean.

As country coordinator, the Philippines takes the lead in broadening and deepening the spheres of cooperation between the countries of Southeast Asia and the US, particularly the implementation of the outcome of the Leaders' Meetings, the directories of foreign ministers issued during the annual post-ministerial conference session with the US, and the plan of action to implement the Asean-US enhanced partnership.

Moreover, the US-Asean meeting has afforded Mr. Aquino the first opportunity for him to meet his Asean counterparts—Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, among others—and reaffirm the ties that bind the Philippines and the region.

His first foreign trip as president has allowed Mr. Aquino to set the tone of a truly working and internationally responsible Philippine leadership.

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Bad, mediocre or brilliant?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"TAKE YOUR FAILURES in text and should never be criminal in a democracy."

That's the Center for International Law's (CIL) reaction to an Incident and Investigation and Review Committee (IIRC) recommendation to indict two broadcast journalists and three television stations in their coverage of the botched hostage rescue attempt at the Quirino Grandstand.

We agree. People Power restored from the Marcos dictatorship's gags the press' freedom from prior restraint. The law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press," the Constitution provides. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects the right to "seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

That covers bad, mediocre or outstanding journalism. And that's where the menu begins. Bad journalism can destroy reputations, incite public unrest, etc. As Bishop Carlo Urbani put it years, it can spill blood. Right died in the Limbo standoff.

"It is better to appear in hell than in your newspapers," retorts an old Spanish axiom. Some legislators proposed laws to enforce standards the press adopts. In essence, "the media may have failed to observe the highest degree of professionalism and self-restraint in their coverage," the CIL admits.

Broadcast executives concede as much. They have expressed pinpointing of national decisionmakers, not control, is the proper course that encourages growth in human life."

"Press freedom comes with accountability," the Cebu Citizens Press Council said. "We appreciate the demonstrated willingness of broadcast media to improve guidelines... Equally important is broadcast's duty to inform citizens fully of internal who we elected."

This won't be the last hostage incident. Today's internal examination of committee can "ensure that more effective rules come into place in future emergencies," the council added.

"Crisis situations should be reported with our (journalists') becoming a part of the event being covered... When a journalist becomes part of the events, he loses his objectivity... Bringing the hostage taker in an interview" can derail negotiations. Bad too: issued the IIRC's recommend an act that exist?

"Erwin Tulfo (TV5) tried to get the police to respond to rumors of the hostage-taker... Michael Rogas (ABS), anchorman, inserted his interview into communication lines with negotiators...

"They found themselves a part of the events... Their involvement other than a detached and objective coverage is a breach of the ethics of journalism."

Are we back to the Olympian shoes had journalists never being criminal in a democracy? Have we created the institutions and values that nurture trained journalists of integrity?

Critics must accompany journalists in photographic for their issues within their humanity," editor and Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez writes. "All journalism must be investigative by nature." Yeah.

"Ethics is not only a conditional confession of the truth" – can be stretched all to whims.

A "fabrication of technology makes journalism into the forum without control," Rheingold told an Inter-American Press Association conference. "Technology diminishes the importance of (news) content, which is the ultimate journalistic standard." Survey before has this professional become more important?

"Restored press freedoms can be threatened by media with deadened sense of values. Bad operate with feeble institutions in a recently restored democracy."

At happenstance, we marked this week the 38th anniversary of Ferdinand Marcos' imposition of martial law. A "bad press" was one of his justifications for the dictatorship.

Second his Public Information Order No. 1, issued on Sept. 22, 1972, it directed Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and Press Secretary Francisco Tatad to seize the media. The press had become "a tool of subversives and oligarchs," he claimed.

Letter of implementation No. 13 spelled out domestic and foreign censorship. Presidential Decree No. 36 claimed the old society "beyond reform." To usher in a new society, Marcos issued permits for media that he or his relatives owned or controlled.

Marcos soon discovered what all tyrants find: a critical free press becoming a holiday. "They have virtually nothing but praise for Marcos, family and their close associates," wrote Sydney Schanberg of the New York Times. "The credibility of the press is on loan – than it has become an embarrassing liability of government."

The press is "not sycophantic and obsequious," the director admitted to editor Isiah Davies. Marcos associates echoed that assessment.

It may be helpful to recall this checkered history given today's sinister view the presidential spokesman has of the media.

No one begrudges the President time to review the documents. James Reston's Lola de Lima and colleagues produced a credible and thorough report. That's done from their perspective and fallen among's partial witnesses. Good. Given to that, the further delay in release of the full report will only complicate reforms, even for bad, mediocre or brilliant journalism.

"Dare is a rough, raw, sometimes brutal craft," Peter Preston of the Guardian notes. "We write or broadcast to make ruts the world knows and we're all embroidered in the truth excuses of people behaving at their worst."

Some do this task brilliantly. Many just get by. Some are incompetent. And others still annual run have to stand on the side of freedom. There is no other side to be on.

We are prisoners of a newsmary press."

(Email: jmercado@inquirer.com)

P-Noy's 'Reform Budget'

GET REAL

Sylvia Colas-Monroe

ANOTHER CONFUSING sign coming out of the P-Noy administration: It looks to be pacifying its money where its mouth is. Friday's 2011 budget, explained in a 45-page message to Congress that some is at a "Behavior Budget," makes that very clear. Only consider:

First, the deficit bound good governance is reflected in a P3.1 billion allocation due to clinke a so-called Performance Challenge Fund (presumably patterned after the Millennium Challenge Account) rewarding improved local governance performance management (PMS) millions). There is also the beefing up of the Witness Protection Program (at 66 percent increase), and the hiring of more prosecutors (an almost unbelievable creation of 1,336 positions). Enough for the Witness Protection Program, the items represent new programs.

Then there are the direct subsidies to the poor, like the Conditional Cash Transfer Program aimed at 1.5 million families or around 45 percent of the total number of income-poor families in 2008. (The Brazilian and Mexican programs encompass all their poor), a Supplemental Feeding Program, food for Medically Displaced Persons, and even a Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens who are 80 years old and over. For the Department of Budget and Management's calculations, the budget for "Programs" related subsidies is more than double the 2010 figure (P62.4 billion versus P30.2 billion).

And while we're at it, let's tackle that CCT. It is not a dole, because the families chosen have to fulfill certain conditions with regard to health and education activities; and if those many kinds with our senses. Its supporters, in fact, providing social protection, improving human capital, and breaking the intergenerational transfer of poverty. Economist Nancy Birdsall of the Washington-based Center for Global Development says that the CCT is "as close as we can come to a magic bullet in development." What could hamper the CCT's ability to shove the many kinds, however, are two factors: the politicization of the selection process (so that the beneficiaries are not chosen for their poverty but for their political affiliation), and the supply constraints (lack of schools and health centers to which the beneficiaries are eligible).

It should also be pointed out that while the total 40.1 budget of P1.645 trillion is only 6.4 percent more than that of 2010's (more than the latter), the budgets for education and health increase more than proportionally—by 26 percent and 58 percent, respectively—again reflecting the administration's commitment toward combating poverty. (What real agencies fund education are also addressed in the abovementioned Conditional Cash Transfer Program funds and the 15 percent increase in the land acquisition and distribution fund (although I must say that the differences in the increases between the two sizes reflect the relatively greater reasons for the latter program than the recipient).

Apparently the P-Noy administration is also bent on ensuring that the expenditures don't get diverted or wasted. And so transparency and accountability measures have been inserted in the execution of the budget. Thus, implementing agencies are required to publish on their respective websites the status of projects' implementation and fiscal utilization; refusal to post the status of beneficiaries if any.

Now for the bad (not so good) news:

First, the reduction of the budget deficit from 3.9 percent of GDP this year to 3.2 percent next year will be accomplished by expenditure-contraction (other than revenue-generation, which, if one will recall, was one of the criticisms regularly leveled against the Arroyo administration. Ideally, it should be expenditure expansion, accompanied by relatively larger revenue expansion.) For by the data, the Inclusiveness will go down from 19.3 percent of GDP this year to 18.6 percent next year, which accounts for why the budget increase is only 6.4 percent, barely enough to take care of inflation. At the same time, the government's revenue effort does not increase at all.

What happened? After all the sound and fury of the bill and Congress about curbing big bills and setting good examples, the government's tax effort ratio (tax revenues to GDP) which is the responsibility of the BIR and Customs) is expected to go up by of all of 0.2 percent of GDP next year. Day That translates to something like P10 billion to a P1.6-trillion budget.

But, one may ask, how come there's all that increase in subsidies for the poor and education and health expenditures? Well obviously these had to be made up for by decreases elsewhere. And here comes the really bad news.

The agriculture budget was slashed by 6 percent; the agrarian reform budget was slashed by 20 percent; farm-to-market roads construction was slashed by 16 percent; and the budget for irrigation remained stagnant (actually it was reduced slightly).

Why the decreases in agriculture, poverty is an agricultural and rural phenomenon, and cutting the above diminishes the anti-poverty effort.

Take the agrarian reform budget. Earlier, we pointed out that land acquisition and distribution funds were increased. But if there are no funds for support services, then the beneficiaries, it is like giving with your right hand and taking away with your left.

I also hope that there is a reasonable explanation for the 33 percent reduction in the allocations for the Philippine Health Insurance Program (PhilHealth). For the subsidized part of all, no pun intended, is the budget for family planning which was slashed by 35 percent.

Much blind, please explain.

Letter to a government statistician

24 September 2010
Dr. Rolando A. Virola

Secretary General, National Statistical Coordination Board

Dear Sonny,

Sonny ang tawag ni Victor Pulli and the Groupo Ong (k ni Obelisquers" (www.tech.groups/headlines/Statistics%20Q%20T1120/_/ce_statistics.asp), apparently published by you office on July 12, came to my notice only this week, as I was preparing for my presentation on "The 2Y5-1001 Into Pull" at a research forum on Friday, Sept. 24, at 9:00 in the morning. Yesterday evening, I invited you by e-mail to attend the forum.

While appreciating the high grade given (through an idiosyncratic point system) to our subsidy, I won't comment to our exit poll. I must also point out serious, yet avoidable, errors of fact in the article.

The most serious error occurred when, after having earlier pointed out the quickly-out polls in the United States and Indonesia were released to the public, you erroneously claimed that: "The 2Y5-1001 exit polls were published May 17, or a week after election." This is rather late and hopefully you will release our exit poll results well top in thank and release their week earlier."

Surely, it is sensible for a television network to delay releasing results from its own exclusive exit poll by more than one hour after the polls close.

Actually, the exit poll results that the 2Y05 website) said: "The first 2Y5-1001 Into Poll broadcast of election race scores, just before 7 a.m. on May 11, was based on an initial batch of 83,500 encoded interviews.... [It] reported Aquino at 41.9 percent, Villar at 25.1 percent and Estrada at 20.1 percent of the valid votes. As the exit poll's sample size grew, the big Aquino lead was maintained. ... The 7 a.m. May 11 report had the Binay votes at ... 11.7 percent and the Roxas vote at 10.8 percent of the valid votes of the preliminary sample, or only 60 points apart from Villar."

By of 9 p.m. of May 10, the number of 2Y5-

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

1001 Into Poll encoded interviewer had reached 10,025.... [pairing] the Binay vote at 41.2 percent, and the Roxas vote at 10.7 percent, of the valid votes of the 9 p.m. sample, writing that the tests of Binay's lead to 2.3 points.... Ultimately, in the 2Y5-1001 Into Poll's final sample size of 52,373, reached at 6 p.m. on May 17, the Binay votes were 43.3 percent, and the Roxas votes were 19.2 percent, of the valid votes of the full sample, or a 2.3 point lead for Binay."

Though not written in an earlier column, my Sept. 24 presentation discloses that, on May 11 at 12:27 a.m., I texted 2Y5 the following exit poll percentages, based on a preliminary sample of 18,958: Noynoy 40, Estrada 24, Villar 23, Gibo 10, and Binay 40. (Also 40, Gibo 9, Estrada 23, I think 2Y5 stayed three figures immediately (I just don't know the exact time), since Liberal Party leaders like Butch Abad kept citing the preliminary 46-40 tie of Binay and Roxas as basis for their hope in Roxas eventually surpassing the 40 mark.

The sample size of the 2Y5-1001 Exit Poll was initially unprecedented. The 16,033 votes assembled by midnight of Monday—already three times the number of all previous exit poll samples—were based on responses from 526 out of the 900 sampled voting centers (VCs). The 21,290 votes assembled by Tuesday morning, based on 687 VCs, and the 30,821 votes assembled by Tuesday evening, based on 721 VCs, represented 70 percent and 91 percent completion, respectively, of transmission, processing, and reporting of data from the designed sample of 902 VCs.

At that point, the 2Y5-1001 Exit Poll's job was substantially done. Later, only minor sampling fluctuations were pressing in. Further screwups in the sample did not change the poll's outcome.

At Wednesday, May 12, 2Y05 let go (or planned) of its entire force of data encoders, typists, point generators, etc., and worked to complete the full sample with regular staff and equipment. By midnight of May 13, with slow shorty following on early 14 of the 902 VCs, the cumulative sample reached 52,251. By May 17 the last 5 VC sheets, with 322 respondents, were in.

The financial cost of the 2Y5-1001 Exit Poll proved very manageable, considering the returns. Most surprising was its cheapness. In the 2Y5 Forum, I disclosed that the 15,000 Smart Foundation's funding amounted to only P18 million, whereas in 2004 the ABS-CBN/2Y05 home-based exit poll, which only managed to complete 3 to 8 interviews per area from 400 clusters (again, not sure) P14 million.

If home-based exit polling is so very inefficient compared to VC-based exit polling, then why has it been used for so long in the Philippines? The ethical reason is because it does not expose the field interviewers to the violence that political personal dangers from partisan gunmen running down.

The 2010 2Y5-1001 Exit Poll was done on donors to assist the challenge of rapid counting promised by the automated election system, without any guarantee that VC-neighborhoods have become less dangerous for pollsters. The issue of security for election pollsters was successfully tackled by a strategic alliance of 2Y05 with the National Movement for Free Elections and the Legal Network for Free and Honest Elections (Namfrel).

Namfrel and Lente helped train the 4865 poll-sters on security and legal knowledge. Their networks stood ready to assist our pollsters, and our pollsters had the means to contact Namfrel's cost of emergency help. Namfrel's network sampled VCs—a Ampalean territory, in particular—to dangerous that it was prudent to administer-riders (GA).

This goes to show that the ways to innovate in exit polling in the Philippines are not, as some seem to fear, supposed, to be found in statistical text books.

Sincerely,
Mahar

• • •

Contact MM: www.sec.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sec.org.ph

Tribute to teachers

Commentary

Ching Jorge

TODAY MY celebrate and give tribute to our teachers through "A Tribute to Teachers," the largest gathering of teachers in the country. This is an annual event organized by the Sen Salazar Foundation. And it is being held on the the year to bring the event closer to teachers in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"A Tribute to Teachers" aims to underscore the nobility of being a teacher and gives recognition to the valiant but often unsung efforts by countless Filipino educators to teach and mold the character of Filipino youth.

More than just honoring the most outstanding educators in the country for inhaling this noble profession with unstoved virality and for being exemplars of the high ideals and achievement that teachers aspire for, while providing our youth with role models.

As many as 10,000 teachers from across this event aside from the thousands more in the audience, and not just for the entertainment and the spectacle. "A Tribute to Teachers" consistently provides teachers and school administrators with a forum for dialogue with the government, the business sector and other educators on a variety of issues, including legislative policies on education, emerging trends in teaching and values education. Of course, it would not be complete if it does not give the teachers a day of fun and camaraderie.

How teachers will be honored this year fits perfectly the different qualities and flaws of the Filipino teacher.

Ellen Ruiz is a teacher from San Pedro, Laguna City. Above story is one that many of our public school teachers can relate to. He routinely travels to the different barangays to visit and monitor his students. Like many public school teachers, he typically ends up using his personal funds to provide materials for his students and classes when he has to. Eventually Ruiz decided to live in the school to be closer to his students and to personally monitor the school and students' progress. He acts as the schools security guard as well.

Donald Bagapo is a teacher from Bauk, Lapu Lapu City, Cebu, who believes that poverty is not a handicap to education and that any child can succeed given the right motivation. As a teacher of late, this is his mission in life and he uses his service and math classes to drive this point home time and again.

Cristina Medina is partially blind and teaches children with disabilities. She has been down her personal disability and instead uses this to make the lives of blind and visually impaired children colorful and full of life. Medina is from San Pedro, Laguna.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's Anibeth Orata go to a until known volunteer and historian but yet many people know that he is a teacher from Quezon City. He is being honored for his passion for history and education.

Ocampo's unerring commitment has changed the way students view and understand history. His true greatness was his ability to weave his insight into our culture and tradition. Being the gifted communicator that he is, Ocampo slowly captivates his students' imagination with the way he describes the lives of our national heroes.

Zeldo Pitargue is a teacher from Cotabato, Laguna. Before 146 is a multi-awarded teacher who believes that there are no learning disabilities, only teaching disabilities. He strongly feels that as a teacher, it is his primary responsibility to raise the level of learning and awareness of each student he teaches. He also collaborates with his local government to make education more meaningful for the community.

Bete, Dungog, Medina, Ocampo and Pitargue are an inspiration to all teachers of overall teaching quality. Their work is at a level that future teachers should aspire for. They are not only dedicated to educating our nation's children but they also contribute to the development of the communities they reside in. Their passion and dedication are symbols of excellence that truly deserve the honor given to them during "Tribute to Teachers."

The five honorees symbolize the many faces of the Filipino teacher, from a teacher on an island in Albay a blind teacher, a science and robotics teacher, a master teacher from Iloilo to a renowned university professor and historian, these teachers have the qualities that can be found in the hearts of many of our country's teachers.

"Tribute to Teachers" is also part of a series of activities in support of the Teachers Month Campaign, a joint advocacy of the private sector and the Department of Education which culminates on Oct. 5, World Teachers Day.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro himself says: "Our teachers are the provider of education which is one of the basic rights of our children. Despite having various obstacles that test their creativity and patience, they are empowered by their commitment to give their unwavering best."

For more information on the program you can e-mail bld@abscmail.com

Ching Jorge is longtime public servant and is an amateur golfer. He is also the founder of Gawad Kalinga, a non-stock and the lead convener of Young Public Servants. She is also the vice president of Bells Balls and Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on uplifting the quality of Philippine Education.

Gone fishing

"BOO," Dad said, while cradling my niece, "you better give me an apo soon. Look!"

I tried my best to muster a smile. I turned around and got back to what I was doing, rolling my eyes and thinking, "Come on, Dad, cut me some slack."

Don't get me wrong. I would love to settle down and have children some day. I do entertain the thought of having a family evening by the

Young Blood

Christian Paul Limjap

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something out there below.—Eds.

sea at the end of the day and seeing my child running up to me for a big hug and a kiss and then exposing a meal prepared by my wife. I have a couple of friends who are already hitched, and they say that all their troubles and more magically go away the moment they are with their children, like a "happy pill." I cannot relate with what they tell me, but I do envy them. Ah, the simple joys in life.

I am a late bloomer when it comes to falling. I had no idea how to swing up but until I was in college. I was 23 when I came across my first good catch. Or so I thought. We ended up having more drama together than all the telenovelas shown on prime time combined, more fights than Manny Pacquiao in his entire boxing career, and more breakdowns than Gloria Arroyo's administration. It was more than I could handle, and that was why we both had to go back to sea.

I have had a couple more good catches in the next couple of years. Unfortunately they were not meant to be. Why they didn't work out is a long story. This is why until now, I still wear my fisherman's hat and play George Clooney heading out to the perfect storm, still searching for my land and final catch.

Friends and family tell me I am not getting any younger, and that no matter how vast my fishing grounds, the ocean will sooner or later run out of fish. Eventually we all have to drop anchor and swim for shore, they add.

It's not like I head out to sea just for the fun of it. I go out, braving the storm of darkness and the demon that is mortality, for the ladies who think that the male population has no trouble when it comes to dating. I beg your pardon. We head out to sea with our complete fishing gear, or at least, we try to. "Gear up!" is what I tell myself while preparing for a date. Like any sensible minded guy, I go through the motions of getting up—putting the right haircut, carefully choosing the right shirt, and planning dinner plans. Wine, yes and dine, yes, I say. Improve at better luck next time. Brand me or be left high and dry. Imagine being in the middle of a deserted ocean, with marble bodies rolling across the road as the hazard sit down on your face. And, right? "Text me!" I mean.

Some of my fellow fishermen believe that the bigger your vessel (actually your car), the better your chances of landing a good catch. "Hey, whatever works for you," I tell them.

Some ladies may find it hard to believe, but all the suiting up and fishing do take their toll sometimes. And for me, it is most of the time.

The fact that men outnumber women doesn't help my chances either. Here you are, on a night out, with a gazillion shopping boats around, all vying for the same coats. All ready to wine and dine. And all a lady has to do to point out who the hot mate. "Congratulations!" she might say. "You've just caught my attention, there's a medal. I may consider you."

Maybe, after going through all that trouble, all you get is a medal. Are my points, ladies? Is the prize clear enough?

Fishing has its ups and downs. You reach an unprecedented high after catching an "I think you're the one" fish, and end up feeling low and exhausted when you lose bait, realize, "Hey, we got way much ahead of ourselves. Let's both go back to the sea." Exhausting I say.

The best catch—that is what I long for. The catch that would make me hang my boots, turn in my depth key, bury my fishing gear, then look her in the eye, and say "You were worth the wait."

As I approach the dreaded age by most (though not by me!) of 30, here I am still patiently waiting for the "mother of all catch" to come my way. But until that day comes, I will continue to "suit up," pass on my bait, play Chesney and brave the storm—until I receive my Oscar.

Christian Paul Limjap, 28, is a sales executive working behind a desk and waiting for something more challenging and emotionally stimulating to come his way. And also still waiting to be married.

The Philippine population is not exploding

I AM glad that Dr. Jose V. Sarreljos, former commissioner of the Population Commission, had a Ph.D. in engineering and is steeped in mathematical and statistical sciences. Unlike some of our economic journalists or commentators who talk about an exploding population, he cannot be fooled by the statistical abracadabra being performed by the National Statistical Coordination Board. He recently wrote a letter to the chairman of the NSCB expressing his surprise that in preparing population data from the 2000 census, some of the statisticians in the NSCB simply handedly added 146,382 babies to the actual number recorded for the 2000 census. The flimsy excuse given to a technical note, hidden in very small letters, is that they assumed that the Philippine population pyramid should continue to be "pyramid like" (instead of an inverted pyramid). In fact, if they had not added the 146,382 babies in the data for the year 2000, the Philippine demographic data would no longer conform with the classic form of a pyramid. It would start to show the makings of an inverted pyramid which now characterizes aging countries like Japan, Spain, Italy and South Korea.

As a long-term student of Philippine demography, I had always suspected some doctoring of population data by birth-control partners. When the United Nations Population Commission was already reporting Philippine population growth rate of anywhere from 1.6 to 1.8 percent annually, the neo-Malthusians continued to report a pseudo-rate of 2.3 percent. Only when some of us insisted that the growth rate had already dwindled and did government demographers start to report a rate of less than 2.0 percent.

Here is why Dr. Sarreljos has all the right to question the recent NSCB action. The unexplained adding of 9 percent more babies to the actual data that resulted from the 2000 census. The net effect of the arbitrary addition is to inflate the population growth rate (PGR) and the total fertility rate (TFR). In the process, the Philippine Population Growth Rate (PPGR) for the year 2010 is be at the alarming rate of only 1.82 percent per annum (vs. the 2.36 percent during the census year 2000, which figure is often still used to justify the view that RH is "exploding").

Equally worrisome is the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children per woman, gained by the NSCB for the year 2010 at 2.98 births per woman. This represents a significant decline from the NSCB figure of 3.41 births per woman.

The big drop in the TFR is quite palpable. All around us, we see young couples having fewer children than their elders (even in informal dweller areas), with many young couples saying that they plan on having no more than two or three children (or much less than their elders who had four to six children per family). In fact, in 1975 the TFR was already 4.0 children per fertile woman. This decline in fertility has happened without aggressive population control campaigns. The main factors for the decrease in fertility are urbanization, later marriages, and increased education of women.

Dr. Sarreljos concludes that the Philippines does not need a policy on family planning which will tend to slow down PGR even more rapidly. The Philippines can reap a demographic dividend if we can slow down or reverse the declining PGR of 2010. The government's role is to assist parents who have not reached their desired family size so that they can be more productive citizens in the future.

I hope that some of our media people will stop flesh hysterical cries about the Philippine "population bomb." They have unfortunately been mislead by the "chemical statistics."

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas is senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific. He e-mail address is mbvillegas@ua-cpbs.edu.ph.

Business Matters

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas

The main factors for the decrease in fertility are urbanization, later marriages, and increased education of women

In The News

President Benigno Aquino III

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Money for 'jueteng,' no money for food

THIS LETTER is in response to Gerardo de Quiroz' July 16 column titled "Legalize it." He wrote: "You legalize jueteng, you won't have to tax after it is all." Well, I think that jueteng is now legalized in the form of EZ 2 which is operated by the PCSO. How do I know this? Because my mother is a big fan of "legalized jueteng" but she places her bets in illegal bookies and not on an authorized lotto outlets, and I think that's the problem that needs to be addressed.

I'm not opposing De Quiroz' suggestion to legalize jueteng. It will be a boon to our government's anti-corruption agencies since government officials become Filipinos' boss in gambling. I mean, gambling, however, Dr. Quiroz, and that is "you legalize gambling in general, you get to regulate it with the same efficiency you regulate any business, making allowance for the corruption regulators always get." Yes, but what about those "greedy members of the government?" Don't you think that they will not be tempted by its millions, if not billions, of pesos that we can collect from the jueteng industry? Sure, if psychology is also will be no jueteng payola anymore, but I doubt this corruption will be gone.

I go De Quiroz' point that mugging pakikisangkot na sila ng kahit na sumusuporta ang mga jueteng lord, but what about moral consistency? Maybe it will not be evident in the short run or short term...but in the long run our officials will not be able to resist more greed for money.

Jueteng is gambling designed for the poor; legalizing it is like encouraging them to rely on luck in chance. I've seen it. My neighbor, instead of buying food for the day, would bet it on jueteng. Sure I asked her, why? She replied in Tagalog: "Pareh, kung manalo ako 1 lang sa kanila, makakain na ang buong pamilya ko sa isang araw." Jose Rizal would call this "ignorance is bliss," but I would call it "ignorance leading to poverty."

The charges, (e.g., harassment, multiple murder, malversation, municipal and human rights abuses) that Concepcion and have been filed by the AFP against militants are not my concern. I am not an ordinary citizen who appreciates the move to hold a rights summit. I do not intend to pick up a fight with Jose Ma. Sison.

Therefore should have viewed the summit as an opportunity for finding "innovative solutions" to long-standing problems, instead of a "chase." I have nothing against Concepcion or any other group that points it and upholds human rights. What I am looking for in Concepcion is the to members to see beyond the accusing of human rights and not to let their emotions drive their minds to counterproductive.

The AFP would not have filed the charges if there wasn't enough evidence to support them. Let's leave the legal issues to the proper authorities. I hope everything goes well.

—JOSE E. LAPIG, jeelit20@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Rights summit was no sham

LET ME think. John Concepcion, spokesperson for Kampatan Bicol, for the points he raised in response to my Sept. 10 letter titled "Rights summit speaks well of Armed Forces."

Opinions expressed in my letter are my own. I and the "rights activists" speaks well of the Armed Forces" because I believed so.

Did Kampatan organized a summit on activism? I do not recall any. It is true, I viewed images in news that were limited to a discussion of alleged AFP human rights abuses and the like. Kampatan might have even agreed participants to those activities, which is nothing new.

The charges, (e.g., harassment, multiple murder, malversation, municipal and human rights abuses) that Concepcion and have been filed by the AFP against militants are not my concern. I am not an ordinary citizen who appreciates the move to hold a rights summit. I do not intend to pick up a fight with Jose Ma. Sison.

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—JOSE E. LAPIG, jeelit20@yahoo.com

CREDITS: Ellen Tordesillas

Angat Dam poses a big threat to many Bulacan towns

I HAVE been reading the heavens about every day. I agree with many of the issues it raises, although I allow to disagree with some of its stories. But this issue, I consider the headline a gross newspaper with the biggest revelation issue country.

I read the Aug. 23 business editorial which talked about the negligence and lack of concern of some of our government officials in the events but incidents in Benguet, which killed 23 persons.

But hundreds of lives are lost and hundreds of millions of pesos' worth of property are destroyed almost every rainy season and during big floods.

Remember the Angat Dam tragedy on Oct. 26, 1978, at the height of typhoon "Kading." It killed more than 200 people and destroyed hundreds of millions of pesos' worth of property in Bulacan. In 1995, water had to be released from the dam, and this caused massive inundation in the north and Metro Manila for almost a week. Last year, there were the deaths and damages caused by "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" in Rizal, particularly in Rodriguez, Pasikat, Sto. Niño, Burgos, Mayabo, Macamot, and Olympic. All these areas were caused by water suddenly released from Angat Dam when it could no longer contain torrential water because of illegal logging in the watershed and the fact that the 45 gates of the dam were not fully raised. Pit-go to-dan points because of apathy, negligence and lack of concern in doing weekend to do the duty of government officials.

Angat Dam is only 45,000 hectares and a catch basin of 237 barrios, targeting 20 municipalities, 10 in Bulacan and 10 in Rizal. Bulacan is a lifeline (kinalo) to Metro Manila's water supply. Rizal's water source is more than the dam. And it is Metro Manila's only source of water. Now, the water level is 200 feet above the spillway. On the day massive dam-releasing Metro Manila suffers serious water crisis.

For years, I have been writing concerned public officials in Council Session, in Department of Public Works and Natural Resources and other national government agencies in Metro Manila, but they do nearly just don't care about the detachments of the Angat watershed.

I have written our government, the chair of the Senate environment committee. But up to now, I have not received any reply. I am writing this because I have heard that there are huge logs in the upper portions of Angat. Any one of these logged-down by typhoon raging waters can cause enough destruction to the dam and could kill hundreds of people as what happened in 1978. We can only pray that local officials in Central Luzon and Metro Manila would not look into this alarming threat, however it may be late to do so.

Hoping one member other a government official will take the responsible chance to launch the clarion, area of whom some from the inside of the post.

—RUEL I. SAYCO, National Secretary-at-Large, for Justice and Peace (NSAJP), ilc_law@yahoo.com

PCE 6379239 www.gonegosyo.net

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the assessment of taxes and duties by the agencies under the Finance cluster, namely, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Tariff Commission, Philippine Tax Academy, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Clark Development Corporation, Bases Conversion Development Authority, Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Development Authority, Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority, Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan, Boracay Island Development Authority, Laguna Technopark, Inc., Export Development Council, Export Marketing Bureau, Board of Investments, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Tourism, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Health, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Across the NATION

La Union under state of calamity due to dengue

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Dengue cases in La Union shot up noticeably in September, but not before the number beat last year's record when it came to 1,193 patients, including four fatalities.

The figure is way above the 792 cases recorded in 2009, said Rolando Lecbuan, dengue coordinator of the La Union provincial health office (PHO).

The high number of cases has prompted the provincial board to declare the province under a state of calamity to enable the La Union government to buy equipment and conduct mitigating measures against the disease.

Tuan city posted the most number of cases at 352, followed by neighbor town Bauang with 175 cases, Magallon, 127, Rosario, 71, and Agoo, 59.

Other towns reported addressing their respective dengue cases, which ranged from four to 49 patients.

The PHO recorded only 120 dengue cases from January to June. The number jumped to 267 in July, then to 560 in August before it dipped to 242 in September.

Proposal

He said the PHO has submitted a proposal for the immediate purchase of fogging machines to replace damaged equipment and rid the province of the dengue vector-carrying mosquitoes.

The provincial government has ordered public and private hospitals to open emergency lanes that serve suspected dengue patients.

In Baguio City, health officials said the high rate of dengue cases plaguing the country today has aroused interest in health insurance.

"The upsurge of dengue cases suddenly makes us remember Philhealth (the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.). This is an opportunity for us to be aware about health insurance benefits. Health insurance is for your social protection. Dengue can help jeopardize our asset for Philhealth benefits," said Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, Cordillera director of the Department of Health, shortly after Philhealth enrolled five families in Barangay Greenwater in Benguet.

Philhealth needs to increase the medical insurance coverage by another ₱60,000 people this year when it launches a registration drive next month to fulfill the universal health insurance coverage promised by President Aquino.

The target represents the indigent identified by the National Household Targeting System of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

22,892 officials said 45,000 of these people live in the Cordillera.

'Bahala na'

"Filipinos are non-insurance-minded and have the mentality of 'bahala na' when it comes to their health. When it comes to health insurance, Filipinos tend to refuse to shell out their money. They only remember health insurance only when they are sick," Cabotaje said.

Leo Douglas Cadiente, Philhealth vice president for the Cordillera, said a dengue patient without health insurance would spend as much as ₱80,000. Last year, Philhealth paid ₱95 billion in hospital bills for its members. Edwards Gavilan and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

ASIAN BIRD FAIR

Birds are the celebrities in the First Asian Bird Fair held in Davao City on the day and today. Participants here are chatterati. For people to make effort to preserve wildlife as they are important for ecological balance. Appeals to end the illegal trade and conservation of wildlife were also aired. MARK ALDEN RIVERA PERALTA

Bicol not declaring dengue 'epidemic'

LEGAZPI CITY—Health authorities here have heightened their alert to dengue cases in the Bicol region after up by 71 percent during the January-September period this year compared to the record during the first nine months of last year.

The Department of Health declared Friday that at least 11 people had died and 1,889 had been hospitalized in various parts of Bicol due to dengue, a mosquito-borne disease.

The DOH epidemiology surveillance team said 11,099 cases were registered last year, also with 11 deaths.

Cesilo Aquino, DOH dengue regional coordinator, said the surge was quite disturbing but this could not be a basis for declaring an "epidemic" to place the region in a state of calamity.

The surge in dengue cases in Bicol for the past nine months, he said, may be attributed to three factors: climate change, urbanization and poor health and sanitation practices of the community.

Aquino said cases of death due to dengue were reported in Camarines Sur with six, two each in Albay and Sorsogon and one in Masbate.

He said Camarines Sur topped the list of dengue incidence with 506 cases followed by Albay with 457, Sorsogon, 275; Catanduanes, 186; Masbate, 105, and Camarines Norte, 102 cases.

DOH records showed that based on comparative data from last year to the present, dengue cases in Catanduanes multiplied six times while those in Camarines Sur increased only by 33 percent.

The DOH reiterated its call on the various district and municipal health units to intensify their respective sanitation and cleanup campaigns to curb the rising incidence of dengue by giving awards.

Meanwhile, the provincial government of Albay is adopting a motivational strategy to let local government units fight dengue with localities and each unit of a town dengue-friendly.

"We reward outputs, not inputs; and successes, not efforts," Gov. Joey Salceda declared, adding that the awards are given by the provincial health officer in recognition of the performance of the communities to the province in preventing or managing out dengue cases.

The periodic performance awards, in the form of certificates of recognition, will be given to municipalities or cities with a minimum of five months dengue free out of the past 9 months.

For seasoned towards, the provincial government will give ₱500,000 as first prize, ₱250,000 as second prize and ₱100,000 as third prize.

For the month of August, the municipality of Libon garnered both awards for zero-dengue for August and first for zero-dengue cases for the past six months out of the past eight months, and the lowest incidence of dengue case for the other three months. Mar S. Arguelles and Roy M. Aseel, Inquirer Southern Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

BATANGAS CITY

15 Korean tourists rescued

BOAT CREW personnel rescued 15 Korean tourists and eight Filipino sailboat crew members off the island of Ilocano late Tuesday after their sailing boats capsized.

No injuries were reported, according to PSI Senator Tongaw, citing a report of the Malay Coast Guard station.

The tourists were onboard two sailing boats that they hired to go island-hopping when the boats were suddenly hit by strong winds and big waves measured 5.75 p.m. about 600 meters off the shores of Barangay Boiling near Boat Station 1.

Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

BATANGAS CITY

1 dead, 2 missing in flash flood

ONE PERSON died while two others remained missing after they were carried away by a flash flood at a spillway in a village here Thursday night, police said Friday.

Batangas police director Senior Supt. Alberto Sapupo said Jamaica Argentino was driving a jeep with the two victims, Tito and Jean Ruby Manalastas, 14, onboard, when a flash flood occurred in a spillway in Sitio Proper Pinagkuhan Area, Barangay Talangan Aumbulong at 7:20 p.m.

Because of the flash flood, Argentino lost control of the vehicle. Sapupo said Fortuno and Manalastas jumped off the vehicle and swam to safety by the flood.

Jeramie Fortuno, 44, who was in the vicinity and saw what happened, tried to save them, but was also carried away. Sapupo said Manalastas's body was recovered in the same village at around 10 a.m. Friday.

Argentino survived.

Police and village officials were continuing search and rescue operations as of press time. Marvin Feliz Lendio, Inquirer Southern Luzon

LAGUNA

Football festival today

TWO LAGUNA football associations will kick-off the first Governor "Gov" Ejercitan Football Festival today and tomorrow at San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, according to a source release.

Some 32 teams from Laguna and Metro Manila will be participating.

5 Cavite towns placed under election watch

DASMARIÑAS CITY—The Cavite Provincial Police Office initially identified five municipalities as "election areas of concern" in preparation for the barangay elections in October.

Topping the list is the town of Amadeo, where partisan armed groups belonging to rival big political clans continue to exist.

Long-time rival clans are those of incumbent Mayor Benjamin Villanueva and the Andrianos that fielded Albert Jr. and John Hogan in the May elections.

In an interview following the PNP command conference here Thursday, Senior Supt. Leordo Medqueda, Cavite police director, said the town would most likely be an election "hotspot."

"The latest development is that we have placed two teams (of police) to watch each of the warring groups," he said.

The other areas were certain barangays in the towns of Tanza, Mendez-Nuñez and Magallanes, and the villages of Calibuyo, Bayhay and Madero in Carmona town.

Meanwhile, Medqueda said Bacoor was not part of the list, despite the election-related violence that erupted during the last national election.

On May 10, two persons, including an aide of Bacoor Congressman Strike Revilla Abaya, were killed, while a police officer was wounded in an encounter with the suffectious at the municipal police office.

Reports said the election clash resulted from the alleged vote-buying by the supporters of the Abayas and another dominant political clan, the Revillas.

As for the Senatorial elections, the Revillas are fielding actor Bong Revilla Jr., for Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., for barangay captains in Pasaquan 7, as confirmed by his mother, Rep. Lani Mercado, to the newsmen.

The senatorial hopeful, Strike, also was in the audience as Bacoor mayor.

Medqueda said they would intensify police visibility by placing more checkpoints in critical areas in the province, until the end of the election gun ban at midnight Friday. Marlowe Cleon, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jam Banaynal
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Why few Filipinos go to flight schools

By Cris Evert B. Lato, Cebu City

OVER 100 students are attending this flight school based on Mactan Island in Cebu. Training is rigorous. The flight school does not take any shortcuts in making sure that its graduates comply with the required number of flight hours necessary for them to obtain licenses as commercial pilots.

But the room is—only five of the hundred students are Filipinos. The majority come from countries in Asia, Middle East and even Africa.

Lately, Indonesians dominated the enrollees at Animore Flight School (Animore). They decided to come to Cebu to train after the aviation industry in their country announced opportunities for them to work as pilots right after graduation.

The dismal turnout of Filipinos enrollees in an estimated 60 flight schools across the country and seven flight schools in Cebu is primarily brought about by the notion that "flight school is expensive," says Capt. Jessup Baltazing, Animore chair and chief executive officer.

"There are no available scholarships for prospective students. For those who do not know the industry well, they think that going to a flight school is expensive. In reality, it's almost the same (expensive) when you enroll a student in medicine," Baltazing says.

Parents' mind-set

A student will have to spend roughly P2 million for a 30-month to one-year study in flight training, according to Baltazing. This include tuition, housing and daily allowance for a student who does not live in Cebu.

Baltazing's daughter, Jessa, who is currently president and chief operating officer of Animore, says the situation is different in Indonesia where the job market for pilots would entice students to go to a flight school.

"Indonesians come here because there is an aviation market there. The six airlines there are waiting for these students to graduate and they will employ them immediately," she says.

Currently, Animore has 20 flight instructors and has graduated over 200 since it started in 2006. It operates 19 Cessna 152 and Cessna 172 aircraft which are used for flight training.

Capt. Baltazing said changing the mind-set of the parents to send their children to flight school is another major problem.

"Many parents will think about their return of investment. How fast will they get their money back. But I tell you, even if you work for a car school, for example, as flight instructor, you can earn better," he says.

Flight instructors in Animore earn at least P150,000 a month.

"They (parents) might get their investments on the third or fourth year," Baltazing says.

Another challenge is the lack of government support in terms of providing scholarships for students, Research Madrid, executive vice president for sales and marketing of the company, says.

In India, for instance, Baltazing says the government has partnered with a bank to give loans to potential pilots to study in a flight school. The scheme is similar to the "study now, pay later" program, which most Filipino organizations have adopted.

"These potential students report to the airline company and the company evaluates if they have potential to be future pilots. When they are given positive remarks from the airline, they are connected to a bank which will give them the loan," Baltazing says.

"They will pay their loan through a salary deduction once they start working for the airline company."

> The dismal turnout of Filipino enrollees is primarily brought about by the notion that flight school is expensive

Worldwide prospects

Aside from Filipinos, the current crop of Animore students come from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Three issues should not discourage Filipinos from considering enrolling in a flight school, especially now that airline rules are being implemented before allowing flight schools to continue their operations.

"We are strictly following the minimum requirement of 200 flight hours for commercial pilots," Baltazing says.

Baltazing said graduates of flight schools in the country are now required to undergo a training program in a full flight simulator (FFS) before they can be employed by airlines.

"There is no feeling how good the students are because they can see the quality of the graduates (from the Philippines). This way, we are helping build the image of the Philippines," he adds.

Captain Baltazing says the bright prospects for pilots abroad should encourage them to study even if the local job market is still weak.

Citing recent aviation statistics, Baltazing said about 400,000 pilots would be needed in 20 years while 35,000 aircraft would be ordered by airline companies worldwide in the next 20 years.

These developments indicate that demand from air travel would continue to grow in the succeeding years, Baltazing says. These should encourage Filipinos to start securing the school and try flying.

Vacation with a heart for the environment

By Cris Evert B. Lato
Cebu City

GETTING a fair share of the tourist market is not just about providing the best room service to guests. To Cebu-based Be Resort, the developing strategy lies in their recently cultivated word—volunteerism.

A fusion of sun, sands, relaxation and tourism, volunteerism seeks to develop a culture of environmental awareness among guests while still allowing them to have fun on their vacations.

"Simply put, this is vacation with the heart for the environment," said Joy Benedicto, managing director of Be Resort.

Benedicto (not related to this page editor) said volunteerism is the "first of its kind in the country" where the resort comes up with series of events and tourism packages that focus on fun and environmental awareness.

Benedicto said guests could opt to include in their vacation package participating in clean-up drives or mangrove planting or island-hopping to Olango. Guests will receive certificates of participation for their involvement in any of the environmental activities.

The resort has partnered with environmental organization, OceanCare Advocates Inc., in organizing island-hopping to Olango, the cleanup drives and the mangrove planting.

The program was launched on Sept. 11 but even before that, it has attracted both local and foreign guests, who have expressed interest to participate in mangrove planting and clean-up drives.

"We hope to do this on a regular basis because for us, it is also our responsibility to inform our guests that we need to take care of the environment," said marketing and communications manager Andrea Legue.

Experiental learning

The group of Manila and Cebu media practitioners joined the Sept. 11 launch and was treated to a different kind of vacation—sailing through mini-deep streams; enduring the sun's scorching heat and planting over 2,000 mangrove propagules on Olango Island.

Since the island is also home to the Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary, the group was privileged to see migratory birds resting on the island before migrating to a warmer country. The group stayed in the observatory deck and used a telescope to see the birds.

Sherry Marshabel, administrator of OceanCare Advocates, said Olango Island has been part of the East Asian Migration Flyway. Birds from Siberia, Mongolia, Japan and China seek temporary shelter on the island on their way to New Zealand and Australia.

The migratory normally starts in September. Peak season, when most birds are found on the island, is November.

"We are very blessed here. The island is the resting ground for rare and endangered species and the number of birds seeing on the island has grown every year," Marshabel said.

As of August 2015, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has counted more than 3,000 birds.

Marshabel encouraging mangroves, participating in cleanup drives and observing the birds are the activities they would like hotel guests to experience to deliver the message that taking care of the environment needs extra and conscious effort.

Marshabel, who gave a short talk on ocean conservation, mangrove planting and biodiversity, said the culture of apathy was still rampant in many people, young and old alike.

Hence, he said, there was a need to further raise the level of awareness through organizational activities such as the volunteerism programs initiated by Be Resort.

FATHER and son help plant mangroves at Olango Island during the formal launching of Be Resort's volunteerism program.

Sustainable

He said the program ensured low impact but sustainable development in the front of the locals living in the area. "We need the people whom outdoor could still bake to guests while they stay for the day on the island.

"Many government units think of high-impact projects, constructing the disneyland with all the rides but they don't think that no one can do something like this out of the ocean tourism. This is ecotourism—less impact but sustainable," said Marshabel.

Benedicto, who joined the team composed of 30 divers, said they were able to collect a total of 150 kilos of garbage including firecrackers, PET, paper, tin cans, CD, bulbs, disposable diapers and Rubbaglos, from the sea.

Amorsolo Abaniz, president of Philippine Business for Social Progress Visayas, was also one of the volunteer divers.

"All around the country, cleanup drives and mangrove planting are happening. For us in Be Resort, we want to give back to the environment because it provides us with a needs. For outlet tourists, we are combining exercise and the giving back aspect. We are inviting everyone to be the speak," she said.

Gordon: We wait for disaster to come, then we panic. . .

By Leila B. Salaverria and Mike Navallo

FORMER SEN. Richard Gordon is ready for an onslaught by another critic: Typhoon "Ondoy"...for has flayed out his SUV with a "snorkel" which, he says, should prevent his vehicle from being stalled in floods.

But Gordon, who heads the Philippine National Red Cross, is worried that millions of his countrymen may not be as equally prepared.

According to him, the best preventive people can have is to learn how to save themselves long before the disaster comes.

"We are so busy thinking of saving the enemies, but people need to know when to leave before a flood, or a landslide, comes," he said.

He considers this "national misbehavior" the biggest obstacle in the way of disaster preparedness.

"We're very lackadaisical," he says in an interview at the anniversary of the disaster floods unleashed by Ondoy in Metro Manila last year approaches. "We wait for disaster to come, and when it comes, that's when we panic and start assigning blame."

Gordon's "snorkel" is actually the black exhaust pipe of his SUV which he has extended high on one side of the vehicle so that it rises above its roof. Other PRRC vehicles have been fitted out with similar "snorkels."

Gordon believes that motorists too would enable him and his Red Cross team to erase flood-waters and reach victims should another deluge strike.

Such preparedness is something that Gordon fails to see in most Filipinos despite the massive devastation Ondoy and typhoon "Pepeng" unleashed in the wake of Ondoy.

Gordon notes that not long after the pummeling from Ondoy, many have returned to live on riverbanks and near esteros and canals, clogging the drainage systems that are supposed to drain rainwater and prevent floods.

Proactive leader

But it can change, he says, with a proactive leader.

"It doesn't take an Ondoy it takes a leader to change their mind-set," he says.

This attitude not just preparing for tragedy but reducing the risk of such events—such as by enhancing people who live in flood-prone areas and having an urban management plan that forbids people from living in such places and requires strict compliance with the building code.

This government could also teach people how to prepare for and respond to calamities, a task that private sector groups, such as the Red Cross, is doing.

Gordon notes that the government has enough equipment, such as rubber boats, in case another typhoon ravages the country, but he also points out that there has just been a changing of the guard, and with it comes new people manning the disaster management offices, so there is an immediate need for additional preparedness, he adds.

Cycle of disaster

Gordon says tragedy need not define again if people be he joined in choosing how to take charge of their own lives and their environment.

"You must stop the cycle of disaster and poverty and the only way you can do that is if the people themselves know where to go, where to live and what are the threats in their community and they prepare actively for it," he says.

In this part, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, has put in place national plans to bring speedy relief to calamity victims.

More prepared now

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman believes the lessons of Ondoy have not been lost on Filipinos and that people are more knowledgeable now about what they need to do when a disaster is upon them.

"I think we're more prepared now. Citizens are more aware," Soliman says.

She notes that in Marikina, one of the cities hardest hit by Ondoy's wrath, many homes have been provided with boats which the residents could use if the waters rise again.

There is also closer monitoring of the rain and water levels in critical areas, she says. The environment department has also provided local governments with a geohazard map so that they could identify the areas prone to landslides during heavy rains.

Relief goods in place

Soliman says DSWD relief goods are also in place. Packs of goods have been distributed to regional offices.

Stocks of relief goods in the DSWD warehouse have been clearly labeled and stamped with expiration dates.

Further, a blogger claimed the DSWD had left relief goods for Ondoy victims to rot in its warehouses—a claim former Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral denied.

The DSWD has also inked a partnership with companies that provide clothing, heavy equipment, communications, mobile kitchens and portable toilets during calamities, according to Soliman.

They won't leave

Residents Cristina Cacas, 53, and her family live within swamping distance of Laguna de Bay, the third largest freshwater lake in Asia, and they well be among the people Gordon wants educated.

"We cannot just leave our area of life to be relocated elsewhere," Cacas says. Her family lives in a rented two-story house at Sta. Nino Aplaya, a community of 98 families in Mercedes-Jala City who rely solely on fishing for their livelihood.

Cacas says they have lived with this setup. My family likewise don't mind," Cacas says.

When a storm starts battering Mandaluyong and the area of Metro Manila, Cacas and the others scramble to evacuate to relatives' homes or higher grounds.

They return when the weather is clear to resume their lives.

"We're seasons with this," she says.

'People are stubborn'

Cacas, the leader of a women's group called Samahang Kababaihan ng Sto. Nino Aplaya, insists that life in the community, no matter how hard, is still better than to relocation areas because they have fishing nearby on.

"People are stubborn"

Cacas, the leader of a women's group called Samahang Kababaihan ng Sto. Nino Aplaya, insists that life in the community, no matter how hard, is still better than to relocation areas because they have fishing nearby on.

Ready or not, 'Ondoy' part 2 can happen again and again

From page A1

again is not far fetched, pacing hefty with the arrival of the La Niña weather phenomenon, the experts said.

"Physically, we're not on target the capacity of any phase of creeks that we've lost capacity in the sense of a more orderly response. But no, we're not yet able to prevent such floods," said Benito Pacheco, director of the University of the Philippines' Institute of Civil Engineering.

Adequate preventive measures is not in place to prevent a recent of the devastating rains and flash floods unleashed by Ondoy on Sept. 26, 2009, the experts said.

In the 12 months since, there has been no sign that a massive project to resolve the problem of the Pasig and Marikina rivers or the Laguna Lake, clean up sewers, and upgrade sewers and drainage, they said.

And all mentioned plans to address the floods Metro Manila encounters, the experts said, the water had come rumbling down, and build a canal to divert water from the Laguna Lake to the Manila Bay are still on the drawing board.

Only talk, talk, talk

Had there been a massive clearing of the river channels, the saturate would have been dramatic and noticeable: a continuous flow of water from the rivers and their tributaries into the Manila Bay, said Pacheco.

The failure to increase the capacity of natural river channels is a problem, he said.

Ondoy dumped unusually huge amounts of rain on Metro Manila, and surrounding provinces in a matter of hours, causing heavy flooding and leaving untold devastation in its wake. Over to 300 people died and tens of thousands more were left homeless.

Palafox, who submitted a list of flood-control measures in their President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the aftermath of Ondoy, is dismayed at the "little progress" on even the most basic measures—the dredging of silted rivers and Laguna Lake.

Let's not even mention his proposed multi-purpose, multi-billion Marcos-era comprehensive plan on land use development for Metro Manila, and construct the estimated P200-million Pantabangan spillway linking Laguna Lake with Manila Bay.

"We can only talk, really, talk," Pelafox said, referring to the Aquino administration.

Three Dat Sierra Blades has been detailed, and exhausting its slopes will take a lot of time and money, dredging the rivers of Metro Manila, which flow into it, he said, and hugged firemen, president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

The Aquino administration had contracted a Belgian/Dutch dredge the 34,000-hectare Laguna Lake and build flood control system at a cost of P18.7 billion, but the Aquino administration has put this on hold since this was deemed a "midnight deal."

Ongoing projects

According to Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, there are ongoing flood control projects, such as constructing a higher retention wall and fortifying pumping stations, in all seven parts of the Pasig.

Sadly, however, there is no massive effort to clean up the metro residents' list line of defense...the network of clogged sewers—or even upgrade the sewerage and drainage systems in Metro Manila's 13 cities and municipalities.

"So we just have to expect flash floods will happening," said Pacheco, who estimated the UP Diman are Reclaiming Baha and Diamond due to frantic clearing operations of the drainage systems in the metropolis were not only heavily silted, but undersized.

"That's why we are experiencing all these floods," he said in a phone interview.

Pacheco, a Public Works cabinet, it won't be able to handle it. The very least we can do is close floodways, drainage and waterways," he said.

There have been no major changes with the dams, which can regulate but not totally big enough to prevent all floods, said Pacheco.

Early warning progress

But at least in the area of an early warning system, Agustin Pagasa, the Department of Science and Technology has made some progress.

According to Pacheco, the DOST, which oversees the weather bureau, is now in the final stage of setting up a nationwide rain gauge network to monitor rainfall in basins around the metropolis.

While only a few have been installed so far, the rain gauges are now linked directly to the river basin authorities, for instance to the Angat Dam in Bulacan province, the commission of data in real time, he said.

"In that sense, an early warning system for Metro Manila is in the making," he said.

Service providers Smart, Globe and Sun have partnered with the weather bureau, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, to install telemetric rain gauges in their combined 30 cell sites in the Marikina watershed.

Agasa had envisioned a joint public-private telecommunications, tapping businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan and then Finance Secretary Margarito Teves as chairs. But Pangilinan opted to form the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), the private-sector counterpart to the government's reconstruction commission created by decree.

Master plan

Under PDRF's auspices, the Board of Engineers has created a task force to develop a flood control master plan for Metro Manila and nearby suburban provinces in coordination with the DPWH. It will be completed in eight months.

At a budget hearing last Wednesday at the Senate, Singson admitted that the Department of Public Works and Highways had been relying on a 1950s flood control study. Hence the need for a new master plan.

Part of this master plan is to study whether to proceed with the construction of the 45-kilometer Pantabangan spillway to ease off-stream canal linking the Laguna Lake with Manila Bay, he said.

So the project, which Pelafox had argued would reduce the extent of flooding in metropolitan areas, the lakeshore and inland, Aquino had proposed to include alongside the Mega Aquino International Airport, has been moved forward.

Neither have any proposed long-term solutions such as restoring the forest cover of the Marikina Watershed and Sierra Madre.

The PDRF is heading on the water commissioners Manila Water Co. in fund the development of a long term plan to reforest the Marikina Watershed. So far, it has managed to build 100,000 trees in the area.

There has neither been a significant resettlement of squatters living near rivers and lakes, the experts observed.

The lessons total has failed to reach officials in possession of the recommendations commissioned report.

"If the successor Commission's created out of that has not done much, how do you expect people to be prepared for a re-

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peat of that scenario, which is likely because of the anticipated La Niña?" said Soriano.

"The only adaptation to do is pray, and disaster evacuation," he said.

Change in mind-set

Yet all their dire predictions, the experts noted that, with the memories of Ondoy still fresh, there has been a change, at least, in the mind-set of government agencies dealing with disasters.

Perhaps most of the development of the nearly missing system, the review of protocols on the release of water from dams, and the organizational change at the government's disaster response oversight body.

Last July Republic Act No. 10121 that provides for a Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System, was passed. The law renamed the National Disaster Coordinating Council as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Different departments are now put in charge of mitigation and adaptation, preparedness and readiness, response and recovery and rest just disaster in general.

Go-to disaster man

Should another calamity in the magnitude of storm Ondoy occur, the new go-to man is the NDRRMC since they are better prepared.

Pelafox said Ondoy has taught government agencies and from the rescue skills to be on their toes in the earliest storm warning.

He admitted that Ondoy had exposed bureaucratic chaos in the face of widespread SOS pleas.

"We are totally for no Ondoy part two. I am responsible. I am accountable. They just have to follow me," said Soriano, a former commander of the Army's elite forces.

Ramos said the "strategic national plan" to reduce the impact of calamities does not only start in an disaster response but includes measures for mitigation, preparation, response, relief and, finally, long-term rehabilitation.

As the lead point of government disaster response efforts, the NDRRMC is chaired by the defense secretary with 26 other agencies and line management relief groups under its command.

Ramos said they have prepared for contingencies in case of a power blackout and communication breakdown as happened during Ondoy.

Its own cell site

Aside from a power generator, the NDRRMC now has its own cell site in downtown Quezon City, which is designed to withstand a 7.2-magnitude earthquake.

All regional councils have been given satellite phones, basic portable communications, and a backup consisting of a cellphone, laptop and fax machine have been distributed to eight regional councils.

Ramos said government rescue equipment have increased by about 40 percent since last year.

Soriano pointed to not the only important thing. What's also important is we give the people warning. Forewarned is forearmed. That's what's important," he said.

Pelafox said that in the one year since Ondoy, the country may not have done much to solve structural changes.

"But I believe that in organizational changes and change of mind-set, I would say it's significant," Pelafox said.

"I can only say that we are more alert, in a sense prepared. That will mean a big difference in casualties or even property damage," he said. With a report from Rona Pazzibugan

Palace to IIRC: Your findings are only recommendatory

From page A1

wanted to know where the leak came from as it was to "defiance of the President's order."

De Lima said the IIRC had preferred that its full report be released to the public but deferred to the instructions of President Aquino, who is now visiting the United States.

Mr. Aquino has said that certain portions of the report, especially those dealing with the panel's recommendations, be withheld pending a review by the Palace legal team of the suggested sections against 11 individuals and some media organizations.

The panel found several officials, policemen and media people liable for the hostage bloodbath, in which eight Hong Kong tourists and the hostage-taker, dismissed policeman Rolando Mendoza, ended up dead.

De Lima expressed surprise that the confidential portions of the report, such as the IIRC's conclusions and recommendations, had been leaked in several media organizations. She supposed obtained a copy of those portions from well-placed sources.

She said the leak did not come from the IIRC because only the and the members had a full copy of the report and they were under strict instructions not to divulge its contents.

She also absolved the IIRC's technical working group, the secretariat, and the people assigned to make copies of the report of leaking the report.

"Understanding should run, duct some kind of a probe because that's the integrity of the document," she said. "The President wanted it published for the reasons that he stated. Why would some people sign to disobey the President? It's disheartening that has the best reasons to really know them responsible for the leakage."

Possible liabilities

Asked about possible sanctions against those who released the report to the media, De Lima said they could be subjected to administrative or disciplinary proceedings if they were government officials. She said the act was "unwarranted in intellectualism."

She said she would have to check about the possible liabilities of any private individual responsible for the leakage.

Palace reminder

De Lima elaborated the panel's desire that its recommendations against government and police officials is found liable for the hostage fiasco be given "serious attention and should not be ignored."

Malacañang reminded members of the IIRC that their findings were "merely recommendatory."

Mr. Aquino is within his power to order a review of the 600-page report, according to his spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda.

"Notwithstanding the fact that it's an independent probe, the report is merely recommendatory," Lacierda said in a press briefing. "The President has the right—through the office of the executive secretary and the chief presidential legal counsel—to review his appointees' recommendations."

Asked if Mr. Aquino was not satisfied with the IIRC findings, Lacierda said the review was meant to inform the President "how to operationalize the recommendations."

"He wants to have a report that he can fully support," Lacierda added.

Due process

The review being conducted by Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Ed de Mesa, chief presidential legal counsel, is also intended to make sure that the executive would not rush into action against the people the IIRC has recommended be sued criminally or lawsuits.

"He wanted to give due process to those people named," he said.

Lacierda declined to comment on whether the Palace review was created to find a way out for Interior Secretary Jesse S. Robredo, who is among those found to be liable for the botched hostage rescue.

"I cannot answer that because that will still depend on the findings of the office of the executive secretary and the office of the chief presidential legal counsel," he said.

No whitewash

But Lacierda assured the public there would be no whitewash of the case.

"When you speak of whitewash, you're going to change the report itself—no, we're not," he said. "We're not going to change IIRC recommendations. The recommendations will be published alongside with the [Palace's] study."

Lacierda defended Mr. Aquino's pronouncement that he sees not "100 percent merit" in the IIRC recommendations.

"Based on his conversations, he had a few reservations on some factual situations in the report," he said. "If you have a wrong appreciation of ... the problem, you will have a wrong solution."

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Giant RP clams to adorn famous Barcelona church

From page A1

La Sagrada Familia is Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece and a symbol of the city of Barcelona. Its distinct features make it one of the most recognizable churches in the world and a major tourist attraction in Spain.

The Philippine consul general, Eduardo de Vega, and the entire consulate staff were welcomed by Jordi Bonet, the Spanish architect supervising the final construction of the church's towers, and Joan Rigol i Roig, a noted Catalan politician and delegated president of La Sagrada Familia foundation.

Rigol had previously served the Catalan autonomous government in various capacities, including president of the Catalan Parliament from 1999 to 2003, and prior to that, as employment minister and culture minister.

"Bonet and Rigol were most grateful for the donation, and once again emphasized the important historical, social and cultural links between the city of Barcelona and the Philippines," the DFA said.

Gift from the Filipinos

De Vega said it was "a source of great pride and pleasure" for Filipinos to play an important role in the completion work of the church's interiors.

He said each of the shells would have a small marker indicating to both Spanish and Filipino that they were a gift from the Filipino people to Spain.

Architect Bonet said it was part of Gaudí's design that Philippine giant shells adorn the main nave of the Church as holy water fonts. The architect had designed a special support for these shells.

The consulate also thanked Dr. Susanna Limsuan of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute for her assistance and cooperation in making available the cultured shells and ensuring the necessary clearances for their export to Spain.

Gaudí's plans

Gaudí started work on the church in 1882 and died in 1926 before completing his work. He is buried in the church's crypt.

The ongoing construction work is being done in accordance to what is believed to be Gaudí's plans. It is projected that 70 percent of the interiors of the church or the Maestro could be found inside the church's main nave by November.

It is hoped that the exterior of the church will be finished by 2026, the 100th anniversary of Gaudí's death.

All ongoing construction work is privately funded by donations, not by government or official church funds.

Basilica

The church will be consecrated and elevated to a basilica at a Mass to be celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI on Nov. 7.

According to Architect Bonet, the Pope will be using holy water from the shell fonts to bless the church.

"From November onwards, tourists from all over the world who will visit the church or attend Mass will see a part of the Philippines in these giant shells," the DFA said.

IN THE KNOW

CONSTRUCTION of the expiatory church of La Sagrada Familia in Spain began on March 19, 1882, and continues to this day. It is expected to be completed in 2026.

Considered the masterwork of renowned Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926), its idiosyncratic design has made it one of Barcelona's top tourist attractions for many years.

The building has been visited by millions of tourists, both for its architectural and religious significance.

Aside from magnificent views from its towers, the church houses the Sagrada Familia Museum, which documents the church's turbulent history and explains the concepts and symbolism of its architecture.

Gaudí

Since 1881, when the Spiritual Association of the Devotees of St. Joseph managed to buy a plot of land for a church dedicated to the Holy Family, the church has been built on donations. Architect Francisco de Paula del Villar started building the church in 1882, before it was handed over to Gaudí toward the end of 1883, who worked on the church until his death in 1926.

Different architects have continued to work on the still unfinished structure.

La Sagrada Familia is famous for its grand facades. Already completed is the Nativity façade, which faces east, and presents Gaudí's dark, childhood and young manhood. Next to be completed is the Passion façade, which faces west, and depicts the sacrifice, suffering and death of Christ.

The yet-to-be-completed Glory façade, which faces south, "will present man in the general order of creation, showing his origin, his purpose and the road he must take to accomplish it."

When finished, the church will have 18 towers: 12 dedicated to the apostles, 4 to the evangelists, one to Jesus and another to Mary. *Inquirer Research*

Source: Official website of Sagrada Familia (http://www.sagradafamilia.org)

Tonyboy denies telling bishop to go easy on Puno

By Norman Bordadora

NEW YORK—Businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, President Aquino's cousin and the biggest stockholder in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has admitted to having met with retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz in connection with the latter's request of alleged "burong" operations under the Aquino administration.

But Cojuangco, Mr. Aquino's second cousin, denied having asked Cruz to "go easy" in his statements about the underground lottery contracting to flourish under the Aquino administration, a number of whose officials the prelate had implicated in the illegal numbers racket.

Cojuangco, who is with the business delegation that accompanied Mr. Aquino to New York, denied that the President had sent him as an emissary to see Cruz.

"It was [done] on my own. Anybody has to help the government do its functions and that was my way of helping," he said.

He said Cruz had shown him the list of names of Aquino government officials allegedly linked to jueteng. He said the only names he recognized were those of Vicente L. Paterno, the interior undersecretary, and the recently retired Philippine National Police Chief Director General Jesse Versosa.

No basis

Cojuangco said he did not share the information with Mr. Aquino because he believed Cruz's list did not have any basis.

He said he was dismayed as Cruz's coming up with the list was based on hearsay.

"Bishop, are you sure of this? Why are you talking about something that's unsubstantiated?" Cojuangco recalled telling Cruz.

"He said he had informants. I asked him who his informants were. He wouldn't tell divulge them," Cojuangco told Filipino reporters who caught up with him only after a few days into Mr. Aquino's US visit.

Cojuangco told the Philippine media group here that he did not think

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Ulanday

'Give us show details, Willie'

By Julie M. Aurelio

SHOW US the details.

REVILLAME: It's his turn to show and tell.

ABS-CBN television has asked Quezon City court to compel TV host Willie Revillame to submit a written admission under oath detailing his contract with TV5 for new shows to be aired on the rival station.

The accusations with Rule 26 of the Rules of Court, disbursement by counsel have by requests your written admission under oath as to the truth of the relevant matters of fact," read the pleading addressed to Pacifiano Ilaci in Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 84 by Miguel Silos, lawyer for ABS-CBN.

In particular, the network sought Revillame's admission as to the signing of his TV5 contract and preparations for his new shows—either a variety show or game show—with the television network.

ABS-CBN cited news articles in the issues on Sept. 7 and 14 on his new shows supposedly to be aired next month.

"Plaintiff Revillame and his new manager and business partner, Wenida del Rosario, among other individuals and entities, formed JWReadventures Inc. for the purpose of producing and/or co-producing the said two programs among others," the request for admission said.

Counterclaim

The motion is in connection with a P480-million counterclaim the network filed against its former TV host for allegedly breaching his contract with ABS-CBN.

Earlier, Revillame filed an P11.5 million civil complaint against the network in which he asked the court to confirm the termination of his contract.

Judge Lucita Cortez of RTC Branch 84 held a hearing on Friday on an omnibus motion recently filed by Revillame asking the court to dismiss ABS-CBN's P480-million counterclaim.

Cortez told ABS-CBN to file its comments on the omnibus motion by Monday, and for Revillame to also comment on the TV network's request for information on his new shows by Oct. 6.

The court is set to resolve both pleadings within a month, Cortez said.

Omnibus motion

In the omnibus motion, Revillame said the network's counterclaim should be dismissed as the relevant plans failed to file the appropriate docket fees.

"Dockets fees should be paid, otherwise the court acquires no jurisdiction over the compulsory counterclaims asserted in the answer," the motion read.

Revillame filed the complaint for judicial rescission of contract against the network, claiming that his suspension with pay and placing him under probation were valid grounds to terminate his contract because they were provided for in the agreement.

ABS-CBN, in turn, lodged the P480-million counterclaim because of Revillame's alleged violations of his contract with the network.

City council's OK sought for Makati barangay's safety

By Mike Morales

MAKATI MAYOR Jejomar Binay is set to ask the city council to place Barangay Rangkas under a state of calamity more than two months after the discovery of an oil leak at a condominium in the area.

Water water has been completely drained in the basement level of the 22-story West Tower condominium building along Ormoks Highway, but gas continues to seep.

Intermittent tests have also contaminated the city government's wells, threatening to flood the basement again.

Workers have bailed over 200 drums of what appears to be a mixture of petrol products.

"The situation at West Towers requires urgent attention. We are concerned with the safety of the initial tests conducted and the appeal of the residents. I am confident the city council will approve my request in the interest of public welfare and safety," Binay said.

In a disaster intervening, the mayor said because the declaration would enable the local government to tap its calamity fund to finance the operation of the West Towers Task Force, which has been created to effectively the source of the leak, among other objectives.

Apart from tracing the source of the leak, the task force will conduct sanitation air quality test, and soil testing around the barangay to verify the extent of the damage.

Several residents have complained about the smell of oil in the air since the their deep wells.

The barangay council already sent Binay a resolution requesting that a state of calamity be raised in their area. In their resolution, it said residents "have been living anxiously and in fear that the event would lead to a more dangerous occurrence."

Meanwhile, Petro Philippine Initiatives, a pipeline system that straddles Bataan, is not yet off the hook. The government said it has not set been able to verify the veracity of residents' claim the company conducted after the oil leak was detected at West Towers.

P-Noy losing his popularity

ON TARGET
RANDY DAVID

A HUGE chunk of President Noynoy's popularity has been chipped off because he refuses to fire Undersecretary Rico E. Puno of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Puno, if Noy's shooting mentor and buddy has been involved in new incidents that have brought shame to the Aquino administration.

Puno is accused of receiving about P6 million a month from illegal gambling operators. He was also one of the officials blamed for the botched rescue of hostages at the Luneta on Aug. 23 that resulted in the death of eight Hong Kong tourists and the hostage taker.

The President's apparent coddling of Puno has exposed to the public his "tuyo-tuyo" (slippery) mentality.

For like Aquino, his buddies and classmates can do no wrong.

If we were had a "take-order" (indecision) military general, we sure have a "tuyo-tuyo" commander-in-chief.

(A former Armed Forces chief of staff got the boundary when he testified in two separate cases before the Senate blue ribbon committee.)

Instead to give orders to attack the Zamboanga military headquarters where a general and his close aide were held hostage by a gunman years ago. That act of boldness cost the lives of the general and his aide!

* * *

When the President comes home from the US, he will (probably) be confronted with a resignation letter from a very patriotic Cabinet member, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

De Lima handled the Incident and Investigation Review Committee (IIRC) that the President himself formed to determine what went wrong and who were culpable in the Aug. 23 hostage-taking and rescues.

The President has disappointed De Lima when he said that he would have her recommend Noy's recommendations reviewed by his Palace legal team.

What's the point of the IIRC marathon hearings?

"Knowing her, the (De Lima) will resign. That was a slap to her. She's true principled! In stay after being insulted," said a fellow Bicolano.

De Lima hails from Camarines Sur.

* * *

If Noy were a principled man, he would have tendered an irrevocable resignation, instead of a conditional resignation.

An irrevocable resignation doesn't force the President much choice but to accept it.

On the other hand, a conditional resignation gives the President a choice to accept or reject it.

Noy has become too much of a burden to the President.

* * *

The commissioners and chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) during the Marcos martial law regime didn't know how to count.

They always counted in favor the dictator Marcos and his cronies would enable the local government to tap its calamity fund to finance the operation of the West Towers Task Force, which has been created to effectively the source of the leak, among other objectives.

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LOREPTIMIST AWARD FOR RP

FOR the first time, the first award category of the Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) was won by the Soroptimist International of the Philippines region. Called the Resilience Award, it recognizes programs, membership, fundraising and public awareness campaigns. Pictured above is Pier Hazel Lim Javier (R) with SIR President Carla Rosalind d. San Francisco. Soroptimist International is an organization of professional and business women committed to improving the lives of women and girls in their respective communities and throughout the world.

DOST researchers test ovitraps vs dengue in Marikina and Quezon City

By Nico Calleja

THE DEPARTMENT of Science and Technology (DOST) began testing ovitraps in two Metro Manila cities yesterday as part of an intensified drive against dengue.

Ovitraps are makeshift breeding traps developed by the agency designed to kill eggs and wigglers of dengue-carrying mosquitos.

Researchers and staff of the DOST brought the ovitraps to 500 households in Nangka, Marikina City, and Novaliches, Quezon City, two areas with the highest number of dengue cases in Metro Manila.

"If the ovitrap is proven effective by the end of October, we will endorse its distribution in all barangays nationwide," said Dr. Antonio Ligsay, division chief of DOST's Research Management and Development Division.

Ligsay said some Marikina officials, including Mayor Del De Guzman and Rep. Miro Quimbo, demonstrated a controlled experiment using the ovitraps in the covered court of Tenth Vista Subdivision in Nangka.

Two ovitraps—black tin cans, each with a piece of loosely wound mesh inside—were shown in Marikina residents. The Marikina officials poured 250-ml clear water into one can and a 250-ml opened soft drink into the other.

Ligsay said the special solution emits odor from dioxide which serves as an "attractant" to mosquitos. "If 90 percent of the eggs and larvae are killed in the solution, then the test is successful," he added.

Las Piñas chapel comes of age at 48

By Allen Minardo
Contributor

IN A community where traditions still hold, the celebrating feast days of their patron saints, what happens when that community celebrates its 48th year on Sept. 26, feast of the archangels?

St. Michael's Chapel is the oldest and one of seven chapels of the Good Shepherd Parish in Las Piñas City with Fr. Gus O'Donnell, SMM, as parish priest.

As early as August 2010, officers of the St. Michael Chapel Mutual Council, spearheaded by Rev. Boy Manalo, worked on the simultaneous of the chapel's façade and the improvement of its interiors through the support of the generous members of the chapel community.

The restoration has become a charming reminder of how the chapel evolved from a small structure in 1952 to an impressive one today. The lot was donated by the then-developer of Sky-garrille Industries, Capt. Felix Gonzales and Amelia Gonzales.

Improvements were made through the years, like the renovation of the sacristy. The chapel now accommodates more than 300 persons.

As one appreciates the beauty and grandeur of the chapel façade now, the assistance of the community—and maybe that of the archangels—is there the new look serves as a springboard of praise to God and to St. Michael who guides and guards its faithful parishioners.

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Japan to free Chinese skipper at center of row

TOKYO—Japan said on Friday it would free a Chinese fishing boat captain whose arrest in disputed waters over two weeks ago sparked the worst row in years between the Asian giants.

Prosecutors cited the deepening rift between Beijing and Tokyo in their decision to release the captain who was arrested after his boat collided with two Japanese coastguard vessels in the East China Sea.

"Considering the impact on relations people and the Japan-China relationship, we decided it would not be worth continuing detaining and investigating the captain," said Naoko Saiki, deputy chief prosecutor Toru Suzuki.

The Chinese captain, Zhan Qixiong, 41, had acted on the spur of the moment and not committed a premeditated criminal act, and he had no prior criminal record in Japan, said Suzuki in a televised press conference.

Public broadcaster NHK, also citing prosecutors, reported that the Chinese captain will be sent back to China," while adding it would take time because formalities had to be ironed out.

The top spokesperson for Japan's center-left Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who was in the US General Assembly in New York, said the decision was taken by prosecutors alone, and not because of political pressure.

But the conservative opposition was quick to lash out as what it saw as a loss of face for Japan, which has been overshadowed by the, fast-growing Asian giant as the world's No. 2 economy.

"It was an extremely foolish decision," said Sankichi Kotani, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of the Liberal Democratic Party, (LD) Press reported.

"It was clear on day that it was an intrusion into Japan's territorial waters. Japanese police

ZHAN Qixiong at the Coast Guard office on Ishigaki Island

arrested in its presence from China."

The row started when Japan's coast guard arrested the captain on Sept. 8 after his trawler collided with two of their patrol boats near a disputed island chain, called Senkaku by Japan and Diaoyu by China.

The collision caused no injuries, but the diplomatic damage was severe.

In the ensuing row, China issued a series of harsh diplomatic protests, summoned Japan's Ambassador Uichiro Niwa on three, once after midnight, and cancelled official visits and joint cultural events.

Japan on Sept. 23 released the ship's 14 Chinese crew and allowed them to fly home on a Chinese government-chartered plane, but Beijing the same day protested that the skipper was still being held.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao warned on Thursday: "China will never give in or compromise on matters including national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity."

Amid the row China has also blocked exports of rare-earth metals, used in products from iPods to electric cars, to Japan, according to traders. AFP

US to restrict diabetes drug

WASHINGTON—In a highly unusual coordinated announcement, US and European drug regulators said Thursday that Avandia, the controversial diabetes medicine, would no longer be widely available.

The drug's sales will be suspended starting in Europe, while US patients will be allowed access to the medicine only if they and their doctors agree that they have tried every other diabetes medicine and that patients have been made aware of the drug's substantial risks to the heart.

Patients now taking Avandia may continue to do so.

The Food and Drug Administration's decision shows that the Obama administration is taking a harder line on drug safety issues, even in the face of scientific uncertainty. Along with its announcement, the agency for the first time immediately posted on its website internal memos from top staff members that in some cases offered entirely contradictory advice. Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg, the agency's commissioner, said that practices within the agency had cut high on the Avandia decision.

"The FDA commissioner, my job would be infinitely easier if our had consensus and full scientific clarity," she said.

Dr. Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic cardiologist whose studies highlighted Avandia's heart attack risks, said that the decision brought an end to "one of the worst drug safety tragedies in our lifetime," adding that it was "essential to fully investigate what went wrong with the regulatory process to prevent this type of tragedy from endangering patients in the future."

One study estimated that from 1999 to 2009, more than 47,000 people taking Avandia needlessly suffered a heart attack, stroke or heart failure or died.

The decision on Avandia marks a new era in the treatment of diabetes, a disease that is reaching epidemic proportions in much of the industrialized world. Because of Avandia, the FDA announced in 2008 that it would no longer approve medicines simply because they help diabetics control blood sugar levels—the standard for more than 80 years. NYT

Pakistani gets 86 years for attacking US officers

A PAKISTANI neuroscientist who was convicted of trying to kill American soldiers and FBI agents in Afghanistan was sentenced to 86 years in prison on Thursday in US District Court in Manhattan.

The case of the scientist, Aafia Siddiqui, 38, had aroused widespread attention, particularly in Pakistan where she was widely portrayed as a heroine.

In Karachi, Bollywood and Lahore, crowd of the streamer prompted protests from religious parties, which announced plans for nationwide demonstrations on Friday. Dawn.com Siddiqui's lawyer in Karachi, dozens of protesters chanted anti-American slogans.

Siddiqui's lawyers had requested a sentence of 12 years; federal prosecutors had pressed for life imprisonment.

The judge, Richard M. Berman, said "significant incarceration" was called for, and he expressed concern about the likelihood of recidivism and difficulty of rehabilitation for the defendant.

In 2004, she was described by Robert S. Mueller III, the director of the FBI, as "an al-Qaeda operative and facilitator." And an indictment in Manhattan says she was arrested in 2008, she was carrying instructions on making explosives and a list of New York landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty the Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building.

But it was her assault on a team of US officers and agents who went to question her after her arrest that led to her conviction in Manhattan on charges that included attempting to kill American officers and employees. She had been taken into custody in Ghazni, Afghanistan, after the local authorities became suspicious of her loitering outside the provincial governor's compound.

In his finding that Siddiqui acted with premeditation, Berman cited the testimony of witnesses who said she had grabbed up an M-4 rifle that one officer had placed on the ground and had begun firing at the Americans.

"At the 2:30 this," the judge said, she uttered, "in the same linguistic English that she has demonstrated here in the courtroom, an anti-American sentiment." She "I want to kill Americans" and "Death to America." AFP

FBI composite image of Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani scientist who studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Colombia kills FARC military leader, striking blow to rebels

BOGOTA—A bold Colombian assault on a rebel camp has killed the military leader of the nation's oldest insurgency and dealt defiance officials say a crippling the "fearless blow ever" against the leftist guerrillas.

Ground troops supported by helicopters and warplanes stormed the fortified camp, killing the feared new commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or Farc, known as Mono Jojoy, officials said.

The Defense Ministry have late Thursday released the first pictures of the dead leader, sending out images to the media that apparently showed him wrapped in bloody camouflage and muddy. The country's bombers and soldiers later to shower his attitude the stomache that the rebel famously wore.

Reports confirmed the death of Jorge Briceno Suarez, 57, in a raid on a rebel stronghold in the Meta department in central Colombia involving up to 600 soldiers including elite special forces.

President Juan Manuel Santos described the raid as "the hardest blow ever" in the history of the guerrilla movement.

"The symbol of terror in Colombia has fallen," Santos told reporters on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Military officials said the attack was launched on Wednesday at 1 a.m., and that soldiers found Briceno's body on Thursday.

Some 30 other rebels were killed in the encounter, officials said. Troops who attacked included two dropping "smart bombs" on fortified positions.

The military said that 70 weapons, including 50 helicopters, low-flying Super Tucano attack planes and bomb-built Rio jets, were involved in the attack, dubbed "Operation Sodoma."

Also killed were three senior rebel leaders, including a member of the FARC directorate, a regional military commander, and the head of the group's urban militias, according to the military.

The information the military obtained "was so precise that immediately it was as if we had obtained a household address," a military source told AFP.

"This was the mother of the FARC camps, the heart," Defense Minister Rodrigo Rivera said reporters.

Rivera then called on FARC leader Alfonso Cano to surrender. "We guarantee you will live and receive just treatment under the law," he said.

Rivera denied reports that there were hostages in the camp during the raid.

The attack is a serious blow on the 46-year-old leftist insurgency, which has suffered the death of several top leaders since March 2008, when troops killed FARC's second-in-command Raul Reyes. AFP

Woman, 41, executed in Virginia

LEWIS

A WOMAN convicted of orchestrating a plot that led to the murders of her husband and stepson was executed in Virginia on Thursday night, becoming the first woman executed in the state in almost a century.

The woman, Teresa Lewis, 41, died by lethal injection at a correctional facility in southeastern Virginia. With a crowd of death-penalty opponents protesting outside, Lewis was pronounced dead at 9:13 p.m. The last time Penn executed, ruling officials at the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt. She was the 11th woman executed in the United States since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

The case against Lewis, the first woman executed in the country since 2005, had drawn international attention. Many of her supporters questioned the fairness of her sentence—her accomplices, who fired the deadly shots, were spared capital punishment—and doubts were raised about her mental capacity. Psychologists involved in her case said she was borderline retarded. And her supporters argued that she had been manipulated by the two triggermen, who stood to gain hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings and life insurance payoffs.

Lewis received support from an unlikely cast. The novelist John Grisham published an op-ed piece calling for leniency, and the Europeans Union sent a letter to Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell asking him to commute Lewis' sentence to life because of her mental capacities. The case was also cited by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a speech to Islamic clerics this week. AFP

FISHER with second wife Elizabeth Taylor in 1959 photo

1950s US pop singer Eddie Fisher dies at age 82

LOS ANGELES—Eddie Fisher, whose huge fame as a 1950s pop singer was overshadowed by scandals ending his marriages to actresses Debbie Reynolds and Elizabeth Taylor, has died. He was 82.

His daughter, Tricia Leigh Fisher of Los Angeles, told The Associated Press that Fisher died on Wednesday night at his home in Berkeley of complications from hip surgery.

"Late last evening she could not a true America icon," Fisher's family said in a statement released by publicist Bridget Boone. "One of the greatest voices of the century passed away. He was an extraordinary entertainer and a true mensch."

Fisher's clear, dramatic singing voice brought him a devoted following of teenage girls in the early 1950s. He sold millions of records with hit ballads including "Thinking of You," "Oh, My Papa," "I'm Yours," "Wish You Were Here," "Lady of Spain" and "Count Your Blessings."

His fame was enhanced by his 1955 marriage to movie star Debbie Reynolds—they were touted as "America's favorite newlyweds"—and the birth of two children.

Their daughter Carrie Fisher became a film star herself in the first three "Star Wars" films as Princess Leia, and later as a bestselling author of "Postcards From the Edge" and other books.

When Debbie Fisher's best friend, producer Mike Todd, was killed in a 1958 plane crash, Fisher comforted the widow, Elizabeth Taylor. Amid sensationalist headlines, Fisher divorced Reynolds and married Taylor in 1959.

The Fisher-Taylor marriage lasted only five years. She fell in love with costar Richard Burton during the Rome filming of "Cleopatra," divorced Fisher and married Burton in one of the great entertainment world scandals of the 20th century.

Fisher's career never recovered from the notoriety. He married actress Connie Stevens, and they had two daughters. Another divorce followed. He married twice more.

Edwin Jack Fisher was born Aug. 10, 1928, in Philadelphia, one of seven children of a Jewish grocer. At 15 he was singing on Philadelphia radio. AP

US at forefront: People in richest countries growing fatter

PARIS—Citizens of the world's richest countries are getting fatter and fatter and the United States is leading the charge, an organization of leading economies said on Thursday in its first ever obesity forecast.

Three out of four Americans will be overweight or obese by 2020, and disease rates and healthcare spending will balloon, unless governments, individuals and industry cooperate on a comprehensive strategy to combat the epidemic, the study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said.

The Paris-based organization, which brings together 31 of the world's leading economies, is better known for forecasting deficit and employment levels than for measuring waistlines. But the economic cost of excess weight—in healthcare, and in lives cut short and resources wasted—is a growing concern for governments around the world.

France-based, the OECD senior health economist who authored the report, blamed the usual suspects for the increase.

"Food is much cheaper than it in the past. In particular, food that is not particularly healthy and people are changing their lifestyles. They have less time to prepare meals and are turning out more in restaurants," said Sassi, a former London School of Economics lecturer who worked on the report for three years.

That plus the fact that people are much less physically active than in the past means that the ranks of the overweight have swelled to nearly 70 percent in the US this year from well under 50 percent in 1980, according to the OECD.

In 10 years, a full 75 percent of Americans will be overweight, making it "the fattest country in the OECD," the report said.

The same factors driving the epidemic in the US are also at work in other wealthy and developing countries, Sassi said. "There is a frightening increase in the epidemic," Sassi said. "We've not reached the plateau yet."

The life span of an obese person is up to eight to 10 years shorter than that of a normal-weight person, the OECD said, the same loss of life span incurred by smoking.

In the US, the cost in dollars of obesity, including higher healthcare spending and lost productivity, is already equivalent to one percent of the country's total gross domestic product, the report said. That compares to half a percent in other OECD countries, Sassi said.

Those rates could rise two- or threefold over the coming years, the OECD said.

The OECD found that rates of obesity, defined on a body mass index above 30, show a wide variation across its member countries, ranging from as little as three to four percent of the population in Japan and Korea to around one-third to the US and Mexico. AP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

Iran leader says US planned 9/11 attacks

FANTASIES Brazilian artist Gil Vicente poses for a portrait in front of his work depicting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ahead of the opening of the Sao Paulo Art Biennial in Brazil on Sept. 21. The artist's fantasies of assassinating Queen Elizabeth II, former US president George W. Bush and Pope Benedict XVI have triggered controversy in Brazil. AFP

UNITED NATIONS—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made a series of incendiary remarks in his speech to the UN General Assembly on Thursday, notably the assertion that the United States orchestrated the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to rescue its declining economy, to reassert its weakening grip on the Middle East and to save Israel.

Those comments prompted at least 35 delegations to walk out, including the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, all 27 members of the European Union and the union's representative, diplomats said.

The annual General Assembly started formally on Thursday, with scores of presidents, kings and ministers expected to address the gathering over the coming week. The speeches often fail to break new ground and lack electricity, so the occasional theatrics attract considerable attention. Ahmadinejad rarely disappoints on that scale, although he seemed to go out of his way to sabotage any compromise he made previously this week about Iran's readiness for dialogue with the United States. The theme of his often flowery speech was that the capitalist world order was collapsing, and he cited three examples: the attacks of Sept. 11, the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and the pressure on Iran over its nuclear program.

He said there were three theories about the origins of the Sept. 11 attacks, including "that some segments within the US government orchestrated the attack to reverse the declining downturn economy and its grips on the Middle East in order also to serve the Zionist regime."

The US Mission to the United Nations swiftly issued a terse response.

"Rather than representing the aspirations and good will of the Iranian people, Ahmadinejad has yet again chosen to spout vile conspiracy theories and anti-Semitic slurs that are as abhorrent and debasement as they are predictable," it said in a statement.

It was not the first time Ahmadinejad espoused the theory, but never before so publicly.

"The majority of the American people, as well as other nations and politicians, agree with this view," he said.

Ahmadinejad obviously delights in being provocative during his annual UN visit. He framed his comments about Sept. 11 as an examination of opinions, an approach he has used repeatedly in questioning the Holocaust.

But his assertion that the majority of Americans agree with him surely lacked any factual basis, as did his assertion that reviving the US economy was the motive behind the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; the US economy declined significantly after the attacks. In his interviews with journalists, much like during his debates with opponents in the disputed Iranian presidential election last year, Ahmadinejad has often been accused of making up statements wholesale.

But analysts noted that his remarks should be viewed through the prism of domestic politics in Iran, where conservatives try to outflank him. They said that during a recent Friday Prayer sermon in Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said 84 percent of Americans believed their own government was behind the attacks.

Iran also cultivates an image as the voice of all Muslims in confronting the United States. The idea that Americans, rather than Islamic extremists, carried out the 2001 attacks has long resonated among Arabs.

"This is very helpful to Ahmadinejad's desire for prominence in the Arab world," said Ali Sibtayanai, a professor of Middle Eastern studies and sociology at New York University.

The other two theories on the attacks presented by Ahmadinejad were that terrorists who penetrated American security were responsible, and that terrorists carried out the attacks but then the US government took advantage of the situation. He even suggested that the United Nations create a fact-finding panel to study the theories.

Nahid Pathi, an Iran expert at the University of Hawaii, said, "Apparently now he has decided that by going to the core of American consciousness...in the same way he did with Israel by questioning the legitimacy of that country's existence—he can continue to keep himself at the center of global attention while deflecting attention away from his dismal domestic record."

Ahmadinejad also harbored chaos Americans who had threatened to burn the Koran.

"The truth could not be burned," he said, holding a green Koran aloft with his one hand and a black Bible with another, saying he respected both of them. "We should wisely avoid playing into the hands of Satan." AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Closed-door training for Manny /A24

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Tamaraws, Eagles start title showdown

FEU, Adamson begin playoff for ladies' crown

CAPACIO: We're hungrier

BLACK: Just as hungry

SALAMAT

GARCIA

By Jasmine W. Payo

BOTH SIDES claiming they are hungrier than the other, the Eastern University and defending champion Women start today what many expect to be a super tense best-of-three series for the UAAP women's basketball title.

Game three is 4:20 p.m. before a sellout crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Although the Blue Eagles have yet to beat the Tamaraws this season, both teams still expect a series that goes maybe go the distance. (See UAAP Finals Special, pages F3 to F5)

"They're excitement to get that three-peat, but the positive side for us is we're hungrier," said coach Glenn Capacio of the Tamaraws, who dominated the eliminations in their quest for a record 20th overall crown.

"We're just as hungry as they are," said Ateneo coach Bonnie Black. "They (Tamaraws) have been first place from the very beginning. We've just been hanging around and waiting for our chance. Now our chance is here."

FEU, also the top seed in the women's division, similarly starts its quest for a title against another defending champion in Adamson.

The Lady Tamaraws and the Lady Falcons, who split their eliminations meetings, battle in Game 1 of a best-of-three title duel at 11 a.m.

Capacio said both FEU and Ateneo will be starting from scratch, with the Eagles actually enjoying an edge because of its championship experience.

"Even though we beat them twice, it was just (the) breaks of the game in the last two minutes (that won it for us)," said Capacio, whose Tamaraws nipped the Eagles by a total margin of five points in two games.

Championship experience

"It's the Finals, so it's back to zero. Their advantage is their championship experience, that's a big factor."

Black said the Eagles will have to come up with a consistent defense to handle FEU's crafty lanky center Jaja Santiago, MVP Bill Garcia, top rookie Shernan Ramos and veteran big men Abbymaureen and Shelly Cayetano.

"What we'll try to do to overcompensate on what we do best, which is to play good defense," said Black. "We don't really have to have very good offensive players, as long as the players give the effort defensively."

The Eagles are aiming to string up a third straight championship behind the leadership of Eric Salamat, Ryan Buenafe, Rinki Long, Alyssa Valdez and Emmanuel Mendoza.

"For me, Salamat and Buenafe are the heartbeats of the team," said Capacio. "If we stop Salamat and Buenafe, we're successful with about 70 percent of our game plan."

Said Black: "Our big men have to play better if we're going to beat them, that's really the strength of their team.

"I know they have good guards in Garcia and Ramos, but at the same time, those big guys make a big difference in their mind. They're very difficult to stop. They have the offensive skills to smack you."

The Eagles will miss the services of back-up setter Jericho Encarna, who is serving a one-game suspension after incurring his second unsportsmanlike foul.

"Our strength is active over balanced," said Black. "We don't really know who's going to be the top scorer from game to game. But that can also be a weakness going into the end game because we don't really have a go-to guy."

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TORRE: Crucial win

Torre to the rescue as RP draws with Scotland

KHANTY-MANSIYSK, RUSSIA—Asia's first GM Eugene Torre sidestepped his record 36th World Chess Olympiad appearance with a crucial win as the Philippines salvaged a 2-2 draw with lowly Scotland in the duel's round at the Khanty-Mansiysk Sports Center on Friday.

The 58-year-old Torre, playing in his 23rd game in a record 20th Olympiad stint, outlasted IM Stephen Burns-Whittaker (Elo: 2372) in a marathon 71 moves of the Queen Pawn to give the 37th-seeded Filipinos the face-saving draw with the 42nd-seeded Scottish side.

The Filipino chess board sets made up for the one-point deficit as GM Darwin Layle to GM Sorsogon Ambahanin Grace on board two, after GM Wesley So on board one and IM Richard Bitoon on board three were held to draws.

Ambahanin-Grace, one of several female players competing in the men's division, beat Layle in 37 moves of the Sicilian Kan game.

In chess with IM Colin McIrvine in 35 moves of the Modern defense, while IM Richard Bitoon split the point with Fide Master Gorham Mordecai.

Ambahanin-Grace, a 42-year-old former top Georgian player, got the better of Layle following a series of exchanges.

The draw with the Scots pulled down the Filipinos one a tie for 63rd to 85th places with three match points based on the scoring system that gives two points for a win, one point for a draw and zero for a loss.

It was Torre's 37th Olympiad win against 111 draws and 39 losses for a total of 141.5 points, the third highest score by a player, two to the 48th GM Bosnian Gligoric of the former Yugoslavia.

Only Hungarian GM Lajos Portisch (176.5 points) and Argentine GM Miguel Najdorf (145) have better records.

In women's play, the Filipinos posted their second 4-0 shutout win, this time over Qatar.

The Gilas medical squad remained in convention with four more players.

Lions a victory shy of sweep

Nail No. 15 with win over Knights

By Cedrif P. Tupaz

SAN BEDA nailed a 15th straight win by **dreaming Letran, 73-58, yesterday** as ex-Arellano chief—off the biggest upset of the 94th NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Borse dela Rosa fired 19 points, while Sochie Daniel bagged in 14 points and pulled down 10 rebounds as the Lions moved within a victory of completing a 16-game sweep of the elimination and an automatic berth in the Finals.

"It feels good, but I want us to [do] something that has never been achieved by our program," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim.

The Lions, who marched San Sebastian's record of 23 straight wins achieved last season, go for the sweep Wednesday against the Stags, who were upset by the Arellano Chief earlier.

Playing with nothing to lose, the Chiefs stunned the defending champion San Sebastian Stags, 66-62, on a jumper by Adrian Celada with 18.2 seconds remaining.

The Chiefs led by as many as 13 points in the fourth period only to allow the Stags to tie the game at 62 on Jonathan Sessin's jumper.

In a bid to stop San Beda's running game, Letran resorted to fouls, leading to a total of 68 free throws, 23 of which the Lions converted.

In Junior action, the San Beda Red Cubs walloped the Letran Squires, 86-75, to improve to 14-1.

The Staglets dumped Arellano, 81-50, to clinch the seven-in-four berth.

SAN DIEGO: David Townsend holds on to the rebound off Kristoffer Alas of Letran in yesterday's game. ALBERT DELA PEÑA

Confident Putra Cup bets off for Malaysia

By Mooney R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE Putra Cup team departs today for Kuala Lumpur "confident of a good showing" after 19 years of fruitless chase to what is officially known as Southeast Asia's water championship.

"With the lineup we have, I am confident of a good showing. Golf is a funny game, and who knows, we might get the breaks we need," said Tommy Manotoc, the longtime Putra Cup veteran and this year's overlapping captain.

"We will definitely finish better than third place," added Manotoc after a final practice round with the players in Sta. Elena yesterday.

Reigning Malaysian tennessis champion Mark Fernandez, the former national champ fully recovered from torturial in his right elbow, will spearhead the Nationals.

Seasoned amateurstand Jozel Gaba, World Am winners Jomis Salandan and Miguel Tabuena complete the RP men's entry.

"It will be a four-to-round fight there," said Manotoc, expecting a lively battle from the young stars from Thailand, Singapore and host Malaysia.

Manotoc said the players flew to Malaysia last week to sample the Royal Selangor course. Action starts Sunday.

The last time the Philippines won the championship was in 1990 in Borneo with a squad made up of Antonio Lascuña, Richard Sinatra, Gerard Custodio and Boy Peñaranda.

There have been a couple of close calls for the Philippines since then, but the squad has to the quality of golf in Thailand, Singapore and even Malaysia has made the road tougher for the Filipinos.

Manotoc said Thailand will remain the top seed, with the Singaporeans, featuring the irrepressible Choo Tze-Huong, also looming as a major threat.

Thailand beat Singapore in Chiang Mai by last year's tilt. The Philippines, led by Dustin Amico, finished third.

Sabal brothers lead RP charge in Camsur 42K

By Ronnina S. Acosta

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—Pangasug Mayor Strathbee champion Unconscionable Sabal and brother Elmer will carry the homegrown hopes' challenge against a foreign field that includes Koreans and Filipinos in the inaugural Camsur Marathon, which starts and ends at the Camsur Watersports Complex (CWC) Convention Center here tomorrow.

Alley Quiray, Columbiawalk Industries, Eric Pandapi, Shaun Rogelio and Rafael Miguel are the other noted Filipino elite runners.

Leading the homegrown parade here are Shiny Grace Delos Santos, Lolita Saserra, Marcelle Gilbuena, Bella Cassidorel and Alleen Tolentino, all provincial veterans in the local scene.

Veteran Bjarkedoc Chapatan, the 2009 Subic International Marathon winner, Rhenn Bermal and Susan Jeremiah Chapuseca, all regulars in Philippine races, will be joined by, among others, compatriots Henry Cheveau, John Mont, Bernard Rivaspet, Anna Jelagat Rhee and Hael Rivaspet.

The 32-year-old Cheveau notched his latest win during the Taipei Expo Marathon last March. He beat host Jun Chang Tzuh-wen with a time of two hours, 24 minutes and seven seconds.

The Ethiopian clocked 2:27:20.

Cheveau also holds the best personal record among all foreigners with a time of 2:10:16.

Namibi Tsidau Tibuwa and Ethiopia's Ayele Geda and Bedlya Bobo are the first-time participants in a Philippine race.

Scotland and Singapore are also awaiting representatives.

Tall Chinese best gallant RP U-18 five

THE PHILIPPINES bowed to powerhouse China, 81-70, to clinch the silver in the top Group C honors on Friday in the Asian Zonal 18 Basketball championship in Sana's Tenayre.

Raphael Banal led the Filipinos with 19 points but the taller and bolder Chinese dominated both boards, 41-29, en route to their third straight victory in the tournament.

The Filipinos, who finished with a 2-1 record in the eliminations, tackled the Chinese after earlier securing their place in the second round with a 61-60 decision of Syria Thursday.

Roller Rivera, son of former PBA player Beng Rivera, had 12 points and four assists against the Chinese.

He scored the winning basket with 40 seconds remaining after Wu Yanbosshi blew an 11-point lead with three minutes left to play.

Supported by a group of Tag-wearing Filipinos, the Southeast Asian champions distanced by sweeping Saudi Arabia, 88-66, Wednesday.

The mighty Chinese routed the same Saudi 96-48 and, 113-60, before whipping Syria, 81-48.

RP coach Eric Altamirano said the tactical adjustments after the Nationals' loss in the high-altitude conditions, which was the primary reason why we couldn't sustain our speed and the pressure."

"But, in the end, I must say after two games, we are ready for the second round," Altamirano added.

Also shining for the Nationals against the Chinese were Bryand Enrose, who contributed 10 points and Kevin Brown, who pulled down eight rebounds.

Against the game Syrians, Banal chipped in with 23 points and Enrose grabbed down 11 boards. Ronnie Nathaniel

ILIGAN PHOTOGRAPHISTS: Donnie Cuello (right) and marginose Indonesian Muhammad Rachman in yesterday's official weigh-in.

Cuello: I'll KO Rachman

BOXING he has the advantage in speed and punches the heavier punches, Filipino world title challenger Donnie Cuello is confident he can knockout former world champion Muhammad Rachman of Indonesia when they clash tonight at the Mindanao State University Gym in Iligan City.

Cuello, who hails from Cabanatuan, Bulacan, is pursuing his World Boxing Council International minimumweight belt on the line against the Indonesian veteran, who has never been knocked out in his 37-year career.

"I have the edge in speed and I think I'm stronger than him," Cuello (13-4-3, 12 KOs).

"My dream is to become a world champion and my fight against Rachman is very important in achieving my goal."

Both Rachman and Cuello easily made the IGH limit of during the official weigh-in held yesterday at the Gaisano Mall.

The 36-year-old Rachman has a record of 62-8-2 that includes 11 knockouts.

The Indonesian is coming off back-to-back losses, including a narrow decision to WBC champ Chayaburg Sithsamerchai of Thailand.

The 12-round title bout as well as choice undercards call for shows tomorrow morning on GMA-7 starting at 10 a.m.

"Donnie needs to look really impressive to get a crack at the world title and he sincerely do that if he stops Rachman," said manager Ogie Jane of Cuello, who is running off a fourth-round TKO of Arnold Tubona last Aug. 1.

Cedrif P. Tupaz

SBP needs Congress nod on Douthit, Zheng

IT'S ABOUT TIME those who are battling the Senate Giba national basketball team realize that the Philippine Olympic Committee has an specific deadline for compliance with requirements or accreditation, documents and names.

That's because the POC wants to make sure that the deadlines, set by the Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee, and the various other requirements are met in order to preserve any last remote hopes.

Blaming the POC should Chris Jackson and Marcus Douthit not get accredited for the Asian Games is both unfair and incorrect.

Just apparently didn't have a passport, so he couldn't get accredited, and neither did Douthit.

Asking that the deadlines be pushed back, even after the POC host basketball's 30-something Senate Giba, showed us real unbelievable or even silverware to rules and regulations.

Besides, the POC was dealing with Giba rulers, when they set deadlines and maximum rules and regulations, they expect them to be followed.

What we find hard to figure out—sitting aside rumors of turf wars and personal affair—is that it's the Senate-Giba people who effectively want to run the show when administrative matters should rightfully fall under the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, where the eminent sportsmen-businessman Manny Pangilinan is president and Nek Aldy, executive director.

To begin with, the naturalization process, as Fida so correctly pointed out, was a first step, with the approval by the House [senior committee—, whose Rep. Robbie Puno did a fine job, honoring his personal passion for basketball and sports in general.

But we noticed it's a very good bicameral and one that we hope will show the way to our congressmen and senators when the time comes for them to act on the naturalization bill.

* * *

It is not something that is disallowed by the International governing body for basketball, Fiba, as well as our own Constitution, but there are ways in which the process must be carried out within the framework of the Constitution and our country's laws.

The passion with which millions of Filipinos follow the sport, which has for decades been an integral part of their lives, sends a simple message to Congress that something out people enjoy will be made even more enjoyable and relevant in terms of international competition.

At the very least, the Philippines, going up against the behemoths of China, Lebanon, Jordan, Iran and Qatar—which apparently have imported more African stars than their literacy through the simple and expeditious process of giving them citizenship, a passport and innumerable perks—will be given a fighting chance.

* * *

He must commend the PBA board of governors under chair Ilone Portis, the bright and youthful commissioner Chito Salud and the teams concerned for releasing three star players to the national team at the expense of their clubs.

Considering our longstanding ties with the United States and our firm and friendly relations with China, no matter the repercussions of the heritage rules, giving Douthit and Zheng the chance, if otherwise, seems only fair and logical.

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathanielsz

RP draws Japan in next Davis Cup tie

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILSTAR PHOTOS

A come-from-behind victory over South Korea, the Cebuana Lhuillier-Philippine Davis Cup team is now shopping for a venue where it hosts Japan in the Asia/Oceania Group I tie on March 4-6 next year.

The Filipino Cagayo were paired against the Japanese during a draw held in Brussels, Belgium, for 2013 where the country hopes to revenge its losses early this year in Osaka and in 2008 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

"We are upbeat in case your considering that we lost very narrow matches against Japan in the past ties," said Philippine Davis Tennis Association vice president Randy Villanueva. "Also, we are hosting the tie this time."

He said they are looking for a home outlaw against the Japanese who swept the Filipinos the last three times they faced off, the last in 2008 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The Philippines last went over Japan in 1999 at the soft, slippery shell courts of the Philippine Columbian Association.

This time, Villanueva said they are looking at several venues including the shell courts of the Manila Polo Club. "They are also planning to put up a court in a mall, to bring fans the crowd to the games.

While Cecil Mamiit and Treat Huey playing in the singles and doubles, the Filipinos rallied from a 0-2 start before rousing out the host South Koreans, 3-2, to stay in Group I.

The country needs to win two ties to make the World Group playoffs. After Japan, the 9th Ipinoe will next take on either New Zealand and Uzbekistan.

THERE'S no stopping veteran center Asi Taulava from moving over to Meralco after the commissioner's office gave its okay on the trade.

Salud okays Taulava trade, cautions Cone

By Mycaa B. Castillo

TO AVOID conflict of interest in running the PBA, newly named commissioner Chito Salud resigned recently as independent director of Petron, the petroleum giant also owned by San Miguel Corp.

The buyouts learned from a source yesterday that Salud personally handed his letter of resignation to Petron directors last Sept. 13, 13 days after he was formally appointed league commissioner.

Past commissioners had been accused by fans of favoring factions in the league, and leaning Petron gives Salud the leverage to act without bias on controversial issues.

San Miguel Corp. also owns San Miguel Beer, Barangay Ginebra and Derby Ace. It's even contemplated changing Derby Ace's name to Petron for the coming Philippine Cup that opens Dec. 2.

Meanwhile, Salud yesterday approved the Air Swifters trade from Powerade to rain-or-shine Meralco in a deal that also involved Rambo Beli after some revisions that compensated the Tigers a little bit more.

Saying the initial deal was "unequal and unbalanced for Powerade," Salud appealed the Dash picks that the Tigers will get from Meralco, which will cost give up its second round choices in 2013 and 2012. The old deal only involved Meralco's second round pick in 2013.

Also, the commissioner also summoned Alaska coach Tim Cone yesterday for critical remarks the outfit licked mentor made on the season in the three-conference format, the impact handicapping and the recent one-sided trades.

Cone was not summoned after his long talk with Salud, but he got a strong warning from making similar statements in the future.

April title fight with Montiel awaits Donaire

By Ronnie Nathanielsz

NONITO "THE Filipino Flash" Donaire Jr. finally gets his mitts on fight a truly worthy foe to WBC/WBO bantamweight champion Fernando Montiel in April next year.

The Donaire has to get past the dangerous Abdaydamyr "Whirlwind" Shkiroukha in Anaheim, California on Dec. 8 to get a shot at Montiel under a schedule worked out by Top Rank promoter Bob Arum.

Donaire, who won the IBF/IBO flyweight title with a spectacular fifth round knockout of Vic Darchinyan on July 7, 2007, hasn't been given any of the big name fighters he has long asked for despite being No. 4 on the prestigious Ring Magazine pound-for-pound list.

It now seems Arum will get him the much-awaited shot at Montiel who, the bayonne learned, wants a rematch clause in the contract in case he loses.

Donaire, who won the WBA superflyweight interim title and relinquished it to move up to a bantamweight, faces a tough task against Shkiroukha, who has a record of 22-1-2 with 7 knockouts.

The Ukrainian fighter, now 34, won a bronze medal in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games beating such vaunted fighters as Oscar Salvador of Argentina and Ghanaí Prince Di Genova of Mexico.

Amonsot new WBO As-Pac champ

FILIPINO SOUTHPAW Lani Amonsot knocked out Thailand's Sirichai Khaihongsai in the second round to win the WBO Asia Pacific lightweight title at the Plantation Resort in Victoria recently.

It was Amonsot's first fight after scoring a 10-round unanimous decision over another Thai, Anon Singmanchu, at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City on Oct. 16 last year.

The 33-year-old Amonsot, now based in Australia, improved his record to 20-3-1 with 13 knockouts while Sirichai dropped to 10-3.

Amonsot is best remembered for his bloody bout with Australian Michael Katsidis in 2007 in Las Vegas for the WBO interim lightweight title which Katsidis won by decision.

Both fighters were now taken to the Las Vegas Medical Center where doctors discovered a slight speck of blood outside Amonsot's brain.

After his last fight in Cebu, the management of MLH Promotions decided to give him any more fights due to his condition, prompting Amonsot to leave for Australia and fight there. Ronnie Nathanielsz

Qatar turns back Talk 'N Text

A "FALLEN" Qatar national squad subdued Talk 'N Text, 88-77, yesterday in a four-nation tournament in the oil and gas rich Middle East nation.

The Tropang Texters shot well from beyond the arc and even outrebounded their taller hosts but failed to make the free throws that mattered in the stretch, coach Chot Reyes told the business via a text message.

Talk 'N Text made 9-of-17 shots from beyond the three-point line for a 53-percent clip, with the combinations of Jimmy Alapag and Larry Fonacier burying a combined 8-of-14.

Alapag, supported for the team with 27 points to go with five assists while Fonacier added 15 points and four assists.

"It was a great learning and hosting experience for us," said Reyes, "We gave the players here a lot to cheer about." Reporter Northwestern

In search of Guangzhou magic

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Della

WHILE IT comes to sizing up the chances of our men's golf team to the 2014 Asian Games, list it the loaded pool.

"Not good," Tommy Manotoc says of the prospects of a four-man squad he will coach in Guangzhou. "We're so far below the development of golf that reality has crept in, and it's frightening."

Tommy sees that while the Philippines looks its own, Asian countries continue relentlessly to load up on golf skill.

"We have been left behind by Thailand, Singapore has outstanding as by Japan and Indonesia," he laments. "The Singaporeans and the Malaysians, they're hiring foreign teachers to create a massive reservoir of talent, triple-A talent."

Meantime, South Korea, Japan and Chinese Taipei continue to cut a eight-month-to-annual presence.

Come November, the fortune tilts—the latter's superpowers of golf—will be joined at every tee, fairway and green of Guangzhou's Dragon Lake Golf Club like a gang of Double Dragons arch-rivals.

"The Asian Games is a nightmare, you notice Tommy,—one of the continent's most recognizable golf personalities.

But the best part of sinking up for illustrator, the team's most national player, is the reality that golf is a luxury game.

He says that in golf, you can definitely pick up the golfers from the description of the national leagues who can win a particular tournament.

But then, Tommy asks. How many times have you heard of surprise winners who definitely did not make the list of usual suspects?

From the golfer playing purely one go on and vote if that player quickly adapts to the other country's rule of etiquette and changing conditions on the golf course, according to Manotoc.

Incidentally, Tommy says the clash will be steep for his players in the years event. But each of his guys definitely has a chance to win the Asiad individual golf crown, last won by the Philippines in 1986.

There members of his team are National Caddies Open alums. Loosely, the event is the closest thing to a grassroots campaign for a game that attracts only 50,000 to 60,000 regular players out of 90 million Filipinos.

The open for entries in an event where the top three players are offered a pair of free golf schooling, housing and a monthly stipend. The idea is to give them enough skills to compete, and hopefully nail a slot in the national golf team.

Tommy's dream is to start a touring program for golf. "Golf is between the cars," he said. "It takes a good head sharpened by coaches to become a successful golfer."

But pursuing golf to the fullest is generally beyond the reach of most Filipino kids. And out there in the barangays, most people think a golf course may as well be on the moon.

* * *

My dad, Porfirio, by now the grand old man of the Della clan of Cavite, Steve Stipe, and Sonia Shain, Bravo Fan, tweet me this weekend. He is preparing his bride for hardship "expatriate" and "hagpakan" should travel in her bubbles, inquires ambassador Norah Fitzabal and the man Tolls, join the party at the ancestral home in Cayetano's Dictatio Cantico.

Arroyo-Mendoza entry rules NCA derby

KIZZ ARROYO and Arnold Mendoza topped the second leg of the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) 5-Stag Derby last Sept. 21.

Their entry "Red Crook" finished the opposition on the way to six points.

The second leg of the derby was hosted by Ouing dela Cruz and Sonny Dias, Raul Rondaw, James Uy and Bene Medina.

Arroyo-Mendoza's "Stag of Night" won a second-up with 5 points.

"Steve" of the Barangay Group was also a winner with 4½ points.

The third leg of the derby is on Sept. 28. It will be hosted by Ebasey and dentist Junior, Elias Hajadio and Jun Mendoza.

The fourth leg will be on Oct. 12, to be hosted by Iggy Arroyo, Patrick Asuncion, the Barangay Group, Alvin Cerdan, the Mallenghayan Brothers, the Jaco Brothers and Art Deciancillo and his son.

The champion of the 2013 NCA-Stag Derby will be crowned Stag Fighter of the Year.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Closed-door training for Manny

By Bernie Magkamile

WORRIED THAT Manny Pacquiao's strategy against Antonio Margarito might leak to the Mexican's camp, Freddie Roach went one step and the Filipino superstar will train behind closed doors in Baguio starting Monday.

"We will need isolation because we don't want the whole world to see our game plan unfold," the celebrated American trainer said. "We've got the basic game plan down, we've got to perfect it now."

At the same time, Roach said "road work is the key" for Pacquiao, who needs to be in great shape for his Nov. 13 showdown with Margarito for the vacant WBC super welterweight title at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"Manny executes most he doesn't get tired," Roach said. "If you get tired, you can't execute. He is executing for 12 rounds because he's in great shape. That's his bread and butter."

At his part, the world's top pound-for-pound fighter said he's 80 percent ready for his unprecedented quest for an eighth title in as many weight divisions.

"We have enough time to get into 100 percent condition," Pacquiao said.

Roach said Pacquiao's training in Manila will end today before they drive up to Baguio City on Sunday.

He said he gave in to Pacquiao's request to stay in Manila for the week because it "would be good for the mental aspect of the training camp."

He added that his patient fighter had "his best days in the gym" since he arrived in Manila and started working out on Monday at the Johnny Hooker gym in Quezon City.

Mixed martial arts champion Georges St. Pierre, who has been trained by Roach in the past, showed up at the gym and watched Pacquiao do the punch-mitts for 10 rounds.

St. Pierre, the UFC welterweight champ, said Pacquiao "is the fastest fighter in the world and it's easy in the ring after him. I'll look like an old man." (See related story below.)

PACQUIAO and trainer Roach work furiously at the Elorde Gym. (BOBBY RAMIREZ)

Canadian UFC star big Pacquiao fan

By Cedrik F. Tapos

ALTHOUGH they have never met, Canadian mixed martial artist star Georges St. Pierre knows more than just the tag as pound-for-pound king with Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao.

Both are known to be very methodical in training, leaving no room unrained in their preparations for each fight.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship star has also worked out under Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's chief trainer.

And both of them are fueled by a passion for excellence.

"I want to elevate MMA what Michael Jordan has done to basketball and Muhammad Ali to boxing, and bring the sport to a whole new level," St. Pierre said at a press conference at the SM Mall of Asia this afternoon.

The three-time title fighter has only lost twice in 23 matches and said the key to his success has been his preparations.

"I always want to be as well prepared as possible when I fight because one mistake could end my career," said St. Pierre, who is gunning for a fourth straight crown, hopes to firm up his grip of the lead and add to his total of 16 points.

But Aguilar is eyeing a second straight triumph that will firm up his hopes for the coveted plum. Aguilar currently has 100 points.

Others in the field are former 10-time Superbikes champ John Ang and 15-year-old sensation Dashi Weismuller.

For further details, call 8172241, 7205303 or fax 8907786.

ST. PIERRE: Pacey unteachable

the UFC welterweight king.

St. Pierre said working under Roach has worked wonders to his career.

"I thought I knew boxing until met Freddie," he said, referring to Roach, who has been credited for transforming Pacquiao into the all-round boxer that he is right now.

"Freddie is amazing. He brought me back to school and took my boxing to another level. He is very technical."

Although there is still a chance for him to move up to the 185-lb division to face Brazilian star Anderson Silva, St. Pierre said he'd rather focus on his Dec. 11 fight with Josh Koscheck in the hometown in Quebec.

"I still have a lot to prove in the welterweight division. I'm moving up to weight at the right time," said St. Pierre.

And St. Pierre admits he is a big fan of Pacquiao.

"Pacquiao is unteachable right now," he said.

Superbikes 5th leg up

TOP RIDERS return to action as they try to improve their title chances today in the fifth leg of the 2010 Excel Asia Philippine Superbikes Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Susana, Batangas.

Action gets logic in go, defending champion Mario Rosario of YRS-EE Moto Oil/Honda Racing and three Aguilar of Excited Yezu-Durant Racing gear up for another grueling duel in the Open class in their quest for the Superbikes Rider of the Year award.

Rosario, who is gunning for a fourth straight crown, hopes to firm up his grip of the lead and add to his total of 100 points.

But Aguilar is eyeing a second straight triumph that will firm up his hopes for the coveted plum. Aguilar currently has 100 points.

Others in the field are former 10-time Superbikes champ John Ang and 15-year-old sensation Dashi Weismuller.

For further details, call 8172241, 7205303 or fax 8907786.

Alilia derby gets going

BREEDERS FROM Rockland Equine Meets Manila will invade San Juan Coliseum today as the "Alilia Farms 4-Stag Derby" gets going at 6 p.m.

Feral Farms Alilia announced a guaranteed purse of P500,000.

Meanwhile, the SJC will also hold the BAIL 1-Stag Derby on Sept. 27; ARJ Fly High 4-Stag Derby on Sept. 29 and Charlie Cruz 4-Stag Derby on Oct. 2.

Interested parties may call 7256363 and 7256368 for inquiries.

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Bangko Sentral to relax forex rules

Temper peso rally, avert asset price bubble

By Michelle V. Rarra

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it was considering relaxing foreign-exchange rules, especially on capital outflows, in a bid to temper the sharp rise of the peso, which has triggered complaints from the export sector.

The BSP said it was also looking at imposing regulations that would help prevent an asset price bubble, which economists said might worsen if foreign capital inflows continued to surge.

Since the start of the second half, foreign capital inflows to the Philippines and other emerging markets in Asia have risen substantially on the back of a bullish outlook on the growth of the region and the sluggish recovery of the United States from the worst economic pain.

While central bank officials said the increase in dollar inflows have the favorable consequence of making imports more affordable, it has the adverse impact making Philippine-made goods more expensive and, therefore, less competitive.

Economists also noted that the surge in foreign capital inflows had the potential of creating asset price bubbles.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said there were no indications of asset price bubbles yet. However, he added that it was prudent that appropriate policies were already in place even before a problem could arise.

Liberalization of rules on foreign capital outflows will help offset the rise of the peso resulting from the increase in inflows. Its issuance may come in the form of swap documentary and other requirements for bringing out capital from the country.

On the other hand, rules that can help prevent asset price bubbles include the lowering of the maximum amount of exposure banks can have on the real estate sector.

"The issue is that we are seeing strong inflows of capital and definitely this will have some impact on economic variables. We need to further liberalize our foreign exchange operations to make sure that there is open movement of

(BSP) B2

MetroPac unit raising ₱7.5B for infra projects

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE TOLL road unit of listed infrastructure giant Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) plans to raise at least P7.5 billion in fresh equity to partly fund big-ticket infrastructure projects in its pipeline.

At their annual meeting yesterday, Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) stockholders approved the increase in the company's authorized capital to 30 billion common shares with a par value of P1 each from the current P5.4 billion.

The company also approved the issuance of five billion preferred shares with a par value of 10 centavos each.

MPTC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the fund-raising would partly finance three road projects the company has planned.

The first two will be segments 9 and 10 of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx). The two stands, which have a combined length of eight kilometers, will be known collectively as the Harbor Link project.

The Harbor Link will connect Pulilan from Valenzuela to the Subic Harbor area in Manila's Tondo district.

The third project will be the so-called "circumferential road," a 11-kilometer elevated toll road from North Harbor to the Metro Manila Skyway in Balintawak.

The result of the construction of the three projects will be the seamless connection of the NLEx and the Subic Expressway.

"The principal requirement will come from the Harbor Link project and the circumferential road, which will cost around P25 billion," Pangilinan said.

He said the company prefers to have a debt-to-equity ratio of 70:30, which means the rest of the funds needed for the three projects would have to be borrowed from banks and multilateral lenders.

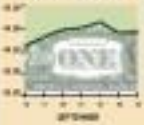
MPTC subsidiary Manila North Tollways Corp. holds the concession contract for NLEx. Another MPTC unit, Tollways Management Corp., operates the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx).

MPTC's parent firm MPIC, which is the local unit of Hong Kong-based holding firm First Pacific Co. Ltd., has investments in power distribution, healthcare and water utilities.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Sept. 24, 2010
44.09

STOCK MARKET
Sept. 24, 2010
▲ 11.39



(For more numbers, see Page B2)

Stocks up slightly

LOCAL SHARES broke ended the week with modest gains as investors continued to pick up undervalued stocks on the regular's prospects to soar to new heights.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) ended the week up 0.28 percent or 11.39 points to 4,078.87.

The broader all-shares index also snapped the week in the green, improving 0.4 percent or 10.18 points to 2,592.50.

Three sub-indices were up at the close of yesterday's trading, with holding firms leading the way with a 1.21 percent or 56.43-point rally to end at 3,873.69.

The remaining sub-indices declined, with the mining and oil sector performing the worst with a decline of 1.72 percent or 224.29 points to close at 12,582.18.

Positive news about the telecoms economy helped improve investor sentiment, which led to continued buying, a local trader said.

The market might succumb to some profit-taking next week as investors try to pocket gains made in the past weeks, the trader said. However, there might also be some "defensive plays" as other market players try to preserve the value of their current holdings.

A total of 12.62 billion shares worth P6 billion changed hands, higher than the 6.15 billion shares worth P5.15 billion traded Thursday.

There were 61 advancers, 81 decliners and 84 unchanged issues.

Paolo G. Montecillo

PLDT on track to surpassing record net profit in 2009

Boost from broadband Internet service

By Paola G. Manuzello

PHILIPPINE LONG Distance Telephone Co. will likely end the third quarter with a higher profit driven by stronger revenues from its growing broadband Internet business.

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said this was in line with the firm's full-year goal of surpassing last year's record net income, despite a maturing market and stiffer competition among local phone firms.

"It looks like it's going to be better than last year," Pangilinan told reporters at the sidelines of the annual meeting of shareholders of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., an affiliate of PLDT.

He said the company's growth in the July-September period was driven by the rapid expansion of the company's broadband Internet business, which is seen as the country's next growth area.

PLDT posted a 10-percent improvement in net profit in the first six months of the year due to the continued expansion of its mobile subscriber base and the growth in its Internet business.

However, the net profit, which strips out gains or losses from foreign exchange and investment holdings, inched up just 2 percent.

Pangilinan said he expected PLDT's subscriber base to continue to rise as the company keeps close call and text rates to attract more users. PLDT is also expected to benefit from its share in the profit of Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, which the phone firm co-owns with affiliate Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

PLDT is the country's largest telecommunications firm. Its mobile unit, Smart Communications, enjoys a more than 50-percent market share with more than 65 million users.

Trailing behind Smart are Globe Telecom Inc., which has 26 million subscribers, and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., which has 11 million.

PLDT expects to end the year with a net profit of about P40 billion, or slightly higher than its 2009 record P39.8 billion.

PLDT, the country's largest listed firm in terms of market capitalization, is owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. and Japan's NTT DoCoMo.

Investors told to await terms of bond swap

By Raoul W. Dominguez

MALACAÑANG'S PROPOSED global bond swap offer leaks amateur but lenders are advised to wait for the terms to be fixed on Tuesday before making a move, Barclays Capital said yesterday.

The investment bank was referring to an ongoing issuance from which the government expects some $3 billion worth of debt paper to be transacted.

Earlier this week, the Department of Finance announced that it wanted to exchange dollar-denominated bonds maturing in 2015-2017 for new ones that are due either on 2025 or 2034.

The DOF is also offering a swap of bonds maturing in 2019-2031 for new securities due in 2034.

"At first glance, we think the bid levels being offered look attractive since they are better than current market levels," Barclays Capital said in a paper released yesterday.

"However, as the exact terms for the bonds to be taxed in exchange will not be fixed until Sept. 27, we recommend investors wait for the announcement before making their decision," it added.

Barclays Capital said it believed that the Philippines would prefer a swap of the bonds with earlier maturities (2011-2017) considering government efforts to extend the average maturity of its debt from the current 12 years.

As such, the bank said local banks were expected to tender only a small portion of their treasury bond holdings.

In the meantime, Barclays Capital said interest from foreign lenders might be higher depending on the resulting yields.

Last Monday, the DOF said Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. and ING NV were given the mandate to act as joint dealer managers for the bond swap.

The bonds that are set for exchange are the government's 9.375 percent issue in 2013, 9 percent (2015), 8.25 percent (2015), 8.875 percent (2015), 6 percent (2016), 8.75 percent (2016) and 9.375 percent (2017).

Aboitiz still keen on gov't plants

By Amy R. Remo

ABOITIZ POWER Corp. said it remained keen on acquiring state-owned power-generating facilities and independent power producer administrator (IPA) contracts should the government decide to push through with the privatization of these assets.

APC president Erramon I. Aboitiz said the company was still interested in the 982.1-megawatt (MW) Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric power plant in Mindanao.

APC, he added, was also looking at two more IPPs contracts—the 728-MW Calaca-Bauan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydropower facilities and the 650-MW Ecogen Luzon geothermal power plants.

"We're just waiting for PSALM [Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.] to continue the privatization process," Aboitiz said.

PSALM earlier postponed the IPPA bidding process for the Unified Leyte geothermal facilities and the 105-MW Naga power plant complex in Cebu, while that for the 650-MW Ilijan thermal power plant failed last June.

Meanwhile, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras also declared earlier that the government planned to keep the Agus-Pulangi facilities in the meantime to help stabilize supply and electricity prices in Mindanao.

"I'm not eager to sell [the by, the facilities] because I think part of the solution to the Mindanao situation is the appropriate use of these [plants] not just for supply but in the pricing equation," Almendras said.

The two facilities are critical power assets as these currently provide more than half of Mindanao's electricity supply.

"[The Agus and Pulangi are] not yet for sale. We don't want to sell them yet, or maybe how long that will be, it will depend on how soon we can achieve true pricing [in Mindanao] and make appropriate adjustments to encourage investments," Almendras explained.

However, PSALM said it would still push to complete the sale of all its remaining assets by 2013 to help liquidate the burgeoning debts of another government agency—National Power Corp.

"That's the target," said Conrad S. Solomon, PSALM vice president for electricity trading. "Our timeline is the soonest that we can, but always aligned with the timeline of the Department of Energy."

According to documents from PSALM, the government needed to dispose of four power plants, which have a combined generating capacity of 2,500 MW, and upto 10% investment with a committed capacity of more than 3,000 MW.

The sale of all the government-owned power assets is expected to raise additional funds to pay Napocor debts, which stood at an outstanding $16.35 billion as of end-June.

So far, PSALM has managed to sell 31 generation assets, equivalent to 41.71 percent of government-owned operating capacities in the Luzon and Visayas. It also has contracted 4,200 MW of its total contracted capacities to IPP administrators.

The sale of all the assets generated $10.65 billion, of which only $4.42 billion has been collected. PSALM expects to receive the rest of the amount as deferred payments over a certain period.

BSP eyes . . .

From page B1

both current account and capital account transactions," Guinigundo said.

He added, however, that the BSP was still assessing which rules should be relaxed and how soon it be imposed. New foreign exchange rules and regulations are expected to be decided upon by the BSP's Monetary Board when its members meet next month for the policy-setting meeting.

Over time, the easy rise in foreign capital inflows could lead to build-up in inflation pressures and at the same time to possible asset price inflation. These are things that we need to consider when looking at these foreign exchange flows," Guinigundo said.

The peso now hovers in the 43-to-a-dollar territory and has broken into the 43:01 level under this month.

The appreciation of the local currency is consistent with the rise of other major Asian currencies, which are being buoyed by foreign portfolio investments, mostly in the form of placements in the stock market.

Therefore, said the rise of the peso and other regional currencies comes was due to expectations of robust growth for Asian economies this year.

In the case of the Philippines, the local economy grew 7.8 percent in the first semester from a year ago, the fastest pace of expansion in more than three decades.

Disclosures

PHILIPPINE BANK of Communications will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 15 at 3 p.m. at the 10th floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino Street, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of July 31 shall be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

* * *

Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. at The Palms Country Club, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 24 shall be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

* * *

Pacific Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. at the Manila Harbour Center, 8-10, Vitas, Tondo, Manila. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 1 shall be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

* * *

Araneta Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 19 at the 21-F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

* * *

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 4 at 4 p.m. at the Alfonso Ayala Executive Lounge, 21/Fl Rizal, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 8 shall be entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

* * *

Bloomberry Corp. has disclosed the buyback of 20,000 shares at P2.86 each on Sept. 20, in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

Integrated Micro-Electronics Inc. disclosed the resignation of Annabelle C. Bautista as vice president and the designation of Emmanuel R. Bonoan as officer-in-charge of the treasurer's department group.

Compiled by Zuleiqa Gonzales, MSB/PDI/P. Ranoco

ERC reduces universal charge

Rate cut means less funds for power unit

By Amy E. Remo

STARTING NEXT month, power consumers can expect to pay a much lower amount for the government's missionary electrification projects following the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of a rate change of only 4.31 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Currently, the charge stands at 8.78 per kWh and is collected for unmanaged monthly power bill as universal charge for missionary electrification (UCME).

The UCME is an additional charge imposed on all electricity end-users to fund the government's electrification projects nationwide.

The charge is collected by the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines and all distribution utilities.

Proceeds from the UCME are used by the National Power Corp.'s Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG), which implements small power projects in remote parts of the country.

The amount approved by the ERC is equivalent to a budget of P2.76 billion for Napocor SPUG for projects this year, barely a fifth of what it had initially sought.

In its original filing, Napocor wanted to increase the UCME to 22.09 centavos per kWh, equivalent to an operational subsidy of P13.9 billion.

But the latest ERC decision examined to cut to typical expenditures and operations of the group. The approved budget is also less than the average subsidy of up to P6 billion usually granted for SPUG projects each year.

In the ERC decision, the commission also noted that the same budget of P2.76 billion a year would be allocated for years 2011 up to 2013, subject to a true-up mechanism adjustment.

Under this mechanism, Napocor may be allowed by the ERC to file a quarterly petition with the commission, if necessary, to recover any shortfall in the missionary electrification subsidy.

This budgetary shortfall may result from lower national electricity sales compared to forecast, collection shortfall, adjustments due to costs associated with fuel and purchased power and foreign exchange movements, renewable financing costs, and other factors.

Based on the original filing, however, Napocor had sought subsidies amounting to P13.22 billion for 2011 (equivalent to a UCME of 24.01 centavos per kWh); P16.17 billion for 2012 (26.43 centavos per kWh); and P13.86 billion for 2013 (20.05 centavos per kWh).

Meanwhile, the ERC, in the same decision, had declined Napocor's "proposed flexibility in the utilization of the UCME funds."

The Commission instead directed the Napocor SPUG to implement its proposed missionary electrification projects in accordance with the Department of Energy's Missionary Electrification Development Plan (MEDP) for 2009 to 2013.

The ERC likewise disallowed some Napocor's proposed recovery of debt services of on the state from failed to seek the commission's prior approval and to provide sufficient evidences to substantiate its claims.

The Napocor's SPUG currently operates 304 generating units with a total generating capacity of about 320 megawatts (MW).

It serves 70 island grids and eight isolated grids, providing electricity to 42 consumers consisting of 39 electric cooperatives and three local government units.

Following the privatization of most of Napocor's power generation assets and contracted capacities, the government had only 62 owned focus more of its resources on the provision of power supply to the SPUG areas beginning this year.

Meralco to impose additional charge

POWER DISTRIBUTOR Manila Electric Co. next month will start collecting an additional generation charge of 3.14 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) from its customers until it has fully recovered P5.37 billion.

According to an order issued by the Energy Regulatory Commission, the extra charge will cover costs incurred by Meralco in purchasing electricity from the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), in excess of the mandated 10 percent requirement from Aug. 2006 to May 2007.

Ronald Tolibo, head of regulatory affairs at Meralco, explained that the power distributor had already paid their generation cost to WESM even before all its customers.

"Meralco had to buy power from WESM during this period to enable it to provide continuous supply of power to its customers. Since the WESM prices are determined in accordance with law and regulations, the ERC deemed these purchases from WESM as prudent and valid," Tolibo said in reaction to the latest ERC ruling. "To mitigate the impact, the ERC allowed the recovery of these costs over a three-year period."

Tolibo said the additional 3.14 c/kWh in generation cost—which would be reflected in consumer power bills as a separate item under the phrase "previous months' adjustment on generation cost"—will not necessarily jack up electricity prices next month.

The generation charge, he said, could go down in October.

In May 2006, the ERC denied the petition of Meralco to recover some of electricity purchases from WESM in excess of the 10-percent cap.

But Meralco sought partial reconsideration of the commission's 2008 decision.

The original amount at that time, minus the carrying charges, amounted to P2.7 billion. Amy E. Remo

Gov't seizes ₱2.4B in counterfeit goods

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT's anti-piracy efforts yielded almost P2.4 billion in counterfeit goods in the first eight months of the year, with bulk of the confiscated products coming from the Bureau of Customs.

According to Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines director general Ricardo Blancaflor, Customs accounted for more than P956.7 million of total goods seized as of end-August.

The National Bureau of Investigation accounted for a total haul of almost P645 million, while the Optical Media Board seized a total of P397.8 million in counterfeit goods during the period.

The Philippine National Police confiscated another P238 million worth of fake products.

"The total amount does not include the watches that we confiscated in a raid last Thursday and OMB's raid in Cebu last week. Blancaflor told the Inquirer.

In an earlier interview, he said the value of counterfeit goods seized this year might exceed P3.6 billion.

Although there are only three months left in the year, with the total haul amounting to only P2.4 billion as of end-August, he expressed confidence that the target could still be achieved.

"The law enforcement agencies [are] on still can," he said.

The National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR), of which IP Philippines serves as vice chair, orders all sorts of counterfeit goods and paraphernalia, including video replicating machines, pirated CDs and DVDs, and fake merchandise ranging from clothes and shoes to fast moving consumer goods or grocery items.

NCIPR is chaired by the Department of Trade and Industry and has for its members the Departments of Justice and Local Government, Finance's Bureau of Food and Drugs, Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crimes, Customs, NBI, PNP and OMB.

Farmers fed up with government

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

FARMERS ARE tired of government's failure to live up to its promises. Thankfully, the new government is initiating a welcome change.

Recently, the Bureau of Customs followed through on its promise to stop the release of eight containers from Dubai with smuggled onions. Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez, who favors transparent governance, also allowed government and private sector leaders to witness the opening of the containers.

Those leaders included Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture, and farmer leaders from Alyansa Agrikultura and the KMSAMMI Onion Growers.

AGRIWATCH

Private-public partnership

Last Sept. 5, acting on information from a private sector source, the Alyansa Agrikultura verified that the containers claiming to have microphones were instead filled with smuggled onions. This was reported to the Bureau of Customs, which chose to open these containers.

Senator Pangilinan said: "This is an excellent example of the public-private partnership advocated by President Noynoy Aquino in his SONA."

However, what happened before the seizure left much to be desired.

Lower-level BOC officials had tried to prevent the opening of containers in the presence of government and private sector leaders. One said that the goods had to be auctioned immediately and could not wait for a public viewing. The Alyansa disagreed.

The Alyansa argued that the immediate auction would mean losing the opportunity to put powerful deterrents on the onion smugglers to stop their smuggling. In addition, the proposed auction would have given the smugglers the opportunity to get back their onions through rigged bidding, as was often done in the past.

The Alyansa said there was a standing agreement that for agricultural goods, the options should be limited to either giving the goods to the DSWD to benefit the poor or destroying them. Otherwise, the smugglers could get their goods again through the use of dummies.

Not over

The opening of smuggled containers was previously considered the end of a successful anti-smuggling action. Many BOC officials would happily go along with this. However, it should be understood that in most cases, smuggling can never only with BOC connivance.

Smuggling is presently estimated to cost more than P10B billion annually in lost government revenue at a time of an unprecedented government deficit. Smuggling also causes massive job losses from unfair competition at a time of unprecedented poverty.

This makes the recent onion smuggling case very important as an indicator of things to come. Previously, because of the lack of follow through after the opening of the smuggled containers, and lack of private sector involvement in media watching, the smugglers got back the containers by giving more bribes to BOC.

Most of the time, they are not even charged. In the rare instances when charges were filed, the smugglers successfully beat the charges and laughed all the way to the bank.

Customs fact sheet

Through the farmer leaders are grateful for the public viewing of the smuggled onions, they decided the "non-fact" distributed in a supposed Customs fact sheet that same day.

The Alyansa told Senator Pangilinan that only one of the two importers was identified in the alleged BOC fact sheet given to him. This is either a BOC oversight (which is not serious an error in an anti-smuggling drive), or a conscious desire to save at least one of the two guilty parties.

In addition, the fact sheet claimed that the BOC people initiated the seizing of this cargo when they allegedly smelled the onions. However, Commissioner Alvarez, who has consistently supported the farmers, publicly told the media that it was the farmers who identified the smuggled cargo, with the BOC subsequently taking the required inspection.

In fact, a BOC official initially gave the farmers a hard time by not wanting to confiscate the cargo. The farmers subsequently rallied to sensitive BOC officials, who acted speedily on their request.

Follow through

So the farmers, the BOC must now do the necessary follow through. With Senator Pangilinan's support as Senate agriculture committee chair, the case identified all legal smugglers (not just the one identified in the BOC fact sheet) must be charged. A ban) vendor should then be given without delay (not left to brigadoh and) importers, as it often (the case).

The BOC should also allow the farmers to witness the disposal of these smuggled onions. In the past, the Alyansa leaders accompanied a Senate staff member to show how more than 20 smuggled containers had disappeared from the Customs area. Nothing was done about it. Again, no follow through.

We expect that the new government, with the help of the many good BOC personnel who have previously been ignored, will now do the follow through that the farmers have long been asking for.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com or visit his AGRIWATCH.)

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BUSINESS

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Tahanan ng Buong Pinoy

Transco pushes sale of assets worth P4.2B

By Jerry S. Bacas

STATE-RUN NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) expects to sell P4.19 billion worth of subtransmission assets in line with its privatization thrust.

According to Transco president and chief executive officer Rhodora Mamaradlo, the subtransmission assets in the auction block consisted of over 3,300 circuit-kilometers (ckm) of lines with a combined capacity of 1,390 megavolt amperes (MVA).

Mamaradlo said that as of June 30 this year, Transco had already sold 95.42 billion worth of such assets since it began its privatization program in 2004.

These assets consisted of 2,869 ckm. of lines with a combined capacity of 925 MVA.

Of the P3.42 billion in assets sold, only P761 million had been collected as of end-June.

The balance of about P2.66 billion is payable over a 20-year period, Mamaradlo said.

Transco successfully disposed of 67 packages of subtransmission assets, such as 525 megavolt ampere transformers acquired by 56 distribution utilities, and 40 loan-purchase agreements with 32 electric cooperatives worth P2.56 billion under concessional terms.

The remaining balance of over P900 million represented sales to private distribution utilities.

Transco earlier reported that it had conducted meetings and negotiations with 23 distribution utilities to "further push for the sale of SSAs."

In particular, Transco is pushing for the sale of about 1,000 ckms. of sub-transmission lines worth just under a billion pesos.

Under the Epira, the SSAs will be operated and maintained by Transco until their disposal to qualified distribution utilities (DUs).

The utilities will take over responsibility for operating, maintaining, upgrading and expanding the assets.

"The transfer of ownership and control of the subtransmission assets will enable distribution utilities to expand their operations, become more efficient ... and improve service," Transco said.

"The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines would be able to focus on its core function—managing the operation and maintenance of high-voltage transmission system. Thus, electricity consumers will become the ultimate beneficiaries of Transco's divestment program."

NGCP which took over the Transco concession in January 2009, is the new operator of the country's electricity superhighway. It has committed to ensure the safety, reliability, and efficiency of the power grid.

In cases where more than one distribution utility is connected to a transmission line, there is a need for the connected and qualified utilities to form a consortium to buy and operate the asset.

CebuPac eyes more destinations abroad

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CEBU AIR, Inc., operator of budget carrier Cebu Pacific, plans to aggressively grow its international business over the next five years to match its local and hybrid destinations operations.

Ahead of its initial public offering (IPO) next month, Cebu Pacific will continue to add more routes and fly more often or begin traffic destinations in the Philippines and abroad as it takes delivery of more aircraft, an airline official said.

Cebu Air senior vice president and chief strategist BJ Sebastian said the company could grow its international business by 25 percent a year over the next two to three years.

Its domestic business, which contributes 70 percent of total revenues, may grow 15 percent a year over the same period, Sebastian said.

"For Cebu Pacific, that growth, just on the basis of economics, is very defensible," he said.

The company has been growing by 25 to 29 percent a year for the last three years, the airline official said.

The company also has plans to follow a "disciplined and profitable" growth path over the next few years, Sebastian added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has approved Cebu Air's IPO for Oct. 15, although the national barangay elections, which will likely take place on the same day, may push back the listing by a day.

With a price guidance of between P130 and P135 a share, Cebu Air of the Gokongwei group, expects the value up to P80 billion to fresh funds from the sale of new primary shares from the IPO.

This will make up about 35 percent of the total offering.

The rest of the offering of around 830 million shares, depending on the price, will come from the sale of secondary shares currently held by JG Summit, Cebu Air's parent company.

Sebastian said JG Summit plans to retain a 65 percent stake in the airline.

Cebu Pacific is expecting the delivery of 22 new Airbus A320 jets starting next month until 2014.

This will bring the number of planes in the airline's fleet to 47.

Sebastian said the new planes will be used mainly for the expansion of the company's international network.

The company currently has 16 international destinations.

Considering the 4,000+ range, the company may be able to choose from about 100 domestic and international routes within the Asia-Pacific region, Sebastian said.

Since 2004, gov't sold power facilities amounting to P3.4B

BCDA seeks lessees for John Hay units

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority is seeking long-term lessees for its 31 big houses, manor and suite units at Camp John Hay in Baguio City.

According to an invitation posted on its official website, this was part of the third phase of the government agency's asset-disposition program.

Ready to be leased are five big house units with floor areas ranging from 589.99 to 1,300 square meters, 16 manor units with floor areas ranging from 33.89 to 140.42 square meters, and 10 suite units with floor areas ranging from 40 to 70.61 square meters.

Those interested to lease any of the BCDA properties may purchase the terms of reference, containing the requirements, for P2,000.

Interested entities may then submit letters of interest to participate in the bidding process from Sept. 23 to Oct. 4.

The BCDA scheduled a pre-bid conference for the John Hay properties on Oct. 4. It will discuss the units to be leased and the contents of the TOR.

The conference will likewise give interested bidders a chance to raise any questions or clarify any matter they may have regarding the bid terms.

The government agency's asset-disposition program involves various properties to be leased either for occupancy like the John Hay properties, or for development.

One of BCDA's ongoing asset disposition effort has to do with the development of the 240.1-hectare Bonifacio South property.

Six entities have expressed interest in challenging the unsolicited bid of SM Land Inc. for the contract, including Ayala Land Inc., Filinvest Land Inc., Jesus Lang Lo Ilalle Lourdes, Megaworld Corp., Robinsons Land Corp., and Rockwell Land Corp.

Six parties already purchased the terms of reference for eligibility requirements.

Ayala, Filinvest, and Rockwell sent representatives to the pre-eligibility conference last Sept. 5, BCDA executive vice president Alfonso Iñigo earlier said.

Emerson International was also present at the conference, but did not purchase the eligibility documents.

SM Land was also represented in the conference.

The property up for development is composed of parcels of land currently occupied by the Army Support Command and Special Services Unit of the Philippine Army and the Bonifacio Naval Station and Philippine Marine Corps of the Philippine Navy.

Editor Cesar G. Pangalangan
SCIENCE/HEALTH

Making sure our cuddly 'friends' won't bite us back

Text and photos by Charles E. Bolton

IN ANY military conflict, the worst kind of casualty is perhaps the one inflicted by one's own side or ally out of confusion or miscalculation. The same could be said about man's best friend when ever it bites a person and infects him/her with the deadly rabies.

While they may be dependable, loyal, friendly and in some cases, cuddly, dogs—whether they are our pets or stray ones—are responsible in rabies infection.

In fact, rabies is a major health problem here in the Philippines where 200 to 300 Filipinos die annually. Ninety eight percent of cases are due to bites or scratches from an infected dog (cats are another source of the virus).

Rabies is caused by a virus that, among other things, invades the nervous system, especially the brain. It is the most deadly virus because by the time the symptoms appear (irritability, headache, fever and sometimes itching or pain at the site of the bite, paralysis, spasms of the throat muscles, convulsions and delirium), the disease can no longer be cured and almost always ends in death.

Children most at risk

While both adults and children are at risk, the latter are more vulnerable because they are naturally playful and often (more oftentimes) if the dog is already threatened or hurt and ready to or bites. Because they are also short in stature, dogs are less intimidated and where they do bite, the wound is almost always in dangerous locations such as the neck and head (where the virus could travel directly go to the brain).

Children also have a habit of hiding unvaccinated stray or scratches from parents for fear of being told off.

While not all dogs will carry the virus, it is also hard to identify if a particular dog is infected with rabies (although one should avoid dogs showing excessive salivation or "foaming at the mouth").

TEACHING canine prevention should convince families to have their pet dogs vaccinated or to have the whole household vaccinated in government-run or private clinics and hospitals.

According to the Department of Health, the surest way is to receive the anti-rabies vaccine after being bitten or scratched by a dog or a cat. A preexposure prophylaxis (administration of the rabies vaccine prior to an exposure) is also advised as this gives additional protection to individuals or professionals who are always in contact with animals (veterinarians, laboratory personnel, animal handlers) or are going to an area where an absence of rabies is high.

In 2007, the Anti-Rabies Act was signed into a law with the aim of eliminating human and animal rabies in the country.

Included in the implementing rules and regulations is the provision of preexposure prophylaxis to children aged 5 to 14 years in areas where risk of rabies is high.

This underscores the fact that children's attachment to their pets places them at high risk for animal bites and rabies. In the current childhood immunization schedule, giving preexposure prophylaxis to children in high risk areas is also recommended.

Preexposure prophylaxis will also provide protection during times when immunes after a bite cannot be instituted immediately (for example, if the individual bitten is located in a far-off place or in an area where anti-rabies medication is not available).

Cost effective

Moreover, the DOH's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control has underscored that pre-exposure rabies vaccine could also be eliminated in the Philippines if more dogs receive vaccination.

According to the agency, this method is more cost effective as the vaccine costs much less than what an individual will spend once bitten. But this entails spending on stray dogs which are mostly the ones left out during local government-led animal dog immunization programs.

Another important advice is the immediate cleaning of the wound or scratch as the simple use of soap and water could already eliminate most of the virus in the affected area.

The agency said while preexposure prophylaxis and post-bite immunization is crucial, washing the wound would never be disregarded as this simple act could also clear it from getting rabies infection.

Applying garlic, vinegar and undergoing the "lanzuhi" (a folk medicine done by placing a drug or substance from over the wound) is not an option as these methods will only cause more swelling, irritation and contamination of the virus in the wound. Doctors who attended not developing rabies after taking appropriate or by any other means may not be actually bitten by a rabid dog.

A mother's heart keeps cancer at bay

Text and photos by Tessa S. Salazar

SALESTINA HAS a fighting heart, but breast cancer is slowly wearing it down.

Tessa is not my Manila Valentina Lizasoro Tabernacio's side. A 55-year-old mother to a 36-year-old undocumented son, Beth, as she prefers to be called, has learned how to suffer silently. Her painful cancer was already diagnosed in its 4th stage, has made her life nearly unbearable.

She described the tumor, which has spread to both her breasts, as feeling "as heavy as hollow blocks, driving me to lonely jump into the path of oncoming UFT trains or buses." Only she love she shares with her son and her grandchildren presents her from ending it all.

And this was how this writer found Beth, seeking treatment at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, at least a two-hour bus ride away from a dream she shares with her son in Sanchezville, Biñan, Laguna. She had just found out that her cancer had already burned its way to one of her arteries (that leads directly to her heart).

Beg to make her pain go away

Beth told this writer that she was out in the hospital to seek expensive chemotherapy for her cancer. She was there, she said, to beg for morphine to make the pain go away, albeit for only three. She had just learned that PGH supplied free painkillers for patients who had blue cards and yellow prescriptions.

Her only wish now, she said, was to live long enough to see her only son, Bernard, to make it as a policeman.

Bernard works as a part-time security guard for an automobile dealership in Southwoods, a nearby cheese away from where they lived. Both have attended that Bernard was qualified to be a policeman, as he is a computer science graduate and has passed the entrance exams for the police.

Meager income

Bernard's meager income could barely buy them the barest of essentials. The chemo has no refrigerator until we relax, and even in the middle of a grassy field that abounds with mosquitoes and even snakes.

"When I need are to make our shedding worst told, or when I tried to answer the call of nature, I have to go to a nearby hotel. food orchid," Beth narrates. "Otherwise, I have to make do with just scrapping our waste in paper and plastic and throwing them at the garbage dump."

Beth has been separated from her ex-common-law husband, whom she said she last saw several years ago. "I wish he had been a better father to Bernard," Beth says.

Beth was first diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2005. With the financial support of friends and relatives, she was able to undergo surgery that removed the tumor. But her cancer was found to have spread to her breasts and lymph nodes.

Her only wish now, she said, was to live long enough to see her only son, Bernard, to make it as a policeman.

Bernard works as a part-time security guard for an automobile dealership in Southwoods, a nearby cheese away from where they lived. Both have attended that Bernard was qualified to be a policeman, as he is a computer science graduate and has passed the entrance exams for the police.

TIME is running out for Beth who says one of her tumors is about to burst.

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Beth was first diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2005. With the financial support of friends and relatives, she was able to undergo surgery that removed the tumor. But her cancer has come back with a vengeance, and has metastasized to other parts of the body like the uterus, ribs and breasts.

Now, she needs to be treated or must undergo surgery to remove the aggressive tumors. Meanwhile, the PGH has assured Beth of a regular supply of pain management drugs.

Additional chemo must be made available for Beth for her future treatments.

Sadly, no one has heeded her call for financial help that time.

If you wish to help, please get in touch with Beth at the PGH's Cancer Institute at 8246-8953, or call Beth directly at 0912-8694865.

"Even if you just offer prayers for us, I will forever be in your debt," Beth whispers, still able to smile through all that pain.

Sagip Buhay: our brother's keeper

MANG ROGER'S is a 55-year-old jeepney driver with exchange kidney disease, whose blood was already teeming with poisonous waste products when he was admitted in the hospital. Jeanna is a 26-year-old housewife, mother of four, with progressive kidney failure due to multiple chronic attack to her kidneys. Ming Carlos, 38 years old, has renounced kidney for several years now due to his medical condition, and he has to be rushed to the emergency room every so often for difficulty of breathing due to emphysema.

What do these three patients have in common? They have life-threatening medical problems, that would literally push them to the brink of survival every time they have an acute episode tipping them off to actual death. Each of them, in compromised state, is sensitive when a vital organ of the body is severely in failure. Another common denominator of these three indigent patients is that they were all beneficiaries of the Sagip-Buhay Medical Foundation at the Philippine General Hospital.

Life-extending angel

Sagip Buhay has been the life-extending angel to many poor patients in the hospital in their (patients') direst times of need, and the foundation has been doing this for the last 15 years now. With only a few hype or bullyhoo, it has helped thousands of poor patients admitted to the PGH medical charity wards, saving countless lives despite its limited resources. Most of its funds are generated by fund-raising campaigns, which are depleted almost as soon as they're raised because of the volume of patients that require assistance.

The hospital would only allot P1,500 for each patient admitted in order for the same medicines and laboratory exams. The total hospital subsidy to the department of Internal Medicine is only something like a little over P6 million annually. You can just imagine the huge shortfall considering the number of patients and staff of urgent procedures and medicines required by many patients afflicted with serious illnesses.

Firm testament

The doctors in the department headed by a highly respected nephrologist, Dr. Agnes Mejia, are confronted with the dilemma whether to just let the patients die due to lack of funds, or do something about it on their own. The Sagip-Buhay Foundation is a firm testament of the doctors' resolve to go beyond their usual call of duty and occasionally exit their pocks out, on behalf of their patients. We salute these doctors, aside from Dr. Mejia, other assistant professors of the foundation are Dr. Rody Jig Mateo Medardo, Regie Tangco and the other consultants in Internal Medicine at the PGH.

Sagip Buhay provides intensive financial assistance for emergency medications and essential lab exams, artificial respirators, and even emergency hemodialysis. "...and all this without red tape," said Mejia in an interview with PGH days. The medical doctors in charge of the patient seek for financial assistance from the foundation, and in less than an hour, they get it for as long as funds are available. "The patients run their relatives do not have to line up for anything," says Dr. Greg Fermin, chief resident of the department and a committed Sagip Buhay volunteer.

Fund-raising fashion show

Dr. Fermin, a former camp model, is spearheading a fund-raising fashion show for Sagip Buhay on Nov. 28 at the Greenhill 3 fashion mall. Titled "Work of HeART," doctors who purchase clothing and accessories from participating local merchants in Greenhill 3 and Tiger to model the apparel on the said date will receive raffle stubs. The store owners will share with Sagip Buhay a percentage of the sales.

Another fund-raising activity is the annual written contest for doctors. The said contest for diplomas exam for Internal Medicine on Oct. 20-20. In the last several years that they've conducted these review classes, they have doctors a remarkably high passing rate, compared to the national average. It's probably partly due to good karma. The review fees the participants are paying don't go to any private pockets, but to serve the needs of poor patients and certainly that generous a lot of positive vibes that can earn them some goodwill points come exam time.

Sagip Buhay partner

You can also be a partner of Sagip Buhay by giving even just a small donation. As I wrote in my previous piece about the foundation, even P50 or for foreigners, a dollar—which many guys in the United States consume a bundle of dipping under the guise of "tobacco"—foreigners—can go a long way in buying syringe, needles and vials to do blood separation for important laboratory exams, or a tablet or two of a drug for treating cholera, or a month's worth of insulin for a diabetic, and you become instrumental in saving a life!

You can deposit your donations through the foundation's Metrobank CPA Avenue Branch account. For proof of deposit, you may send your deposit number to 0443-3044-48-001-1. For dollar donations, the savings account number is 0443-3044-48-001-1. For those who prefer to send their donations through the foundation's treasurer, Jessica Bodiz Jig Mateo Medardo, Regie Tangco and the other consultants in Internal Medicine at the PGH.

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Now, that's what I call a small, great Sagip Buhay endeavor—a big mood boost that their selfless efforts are appreciated, and there are other people who also care for the poor marginalized people they care for.

To know more of Sagip Buhay, you may visit its website at http://sagipbuhay.org, email sagipbuhay@gmail.com, or text 0917-2256887.

Bright lights vary bird behavior

SOME PEOPLE leave the light on when they go to sleep or that they can keep the dark at bay if they ever awaken unexpectedly in the middle of the night. While light sources such as street lamps, night lights or televisions make it easy for people to navigate in cities, sometimes the artificial brightness can prevent birds from seeing other things. As a result, some 2009 was declared the International Year of Astronomy one of the activities heavily promoted worldwide called for city dwellers to turn off their lights so that they could actually see the stars in the skies above them at night.

A room study by German bird researchers suggests another reason to consider turning down the night lights: the artificial brightness found in urban environments is affecting the behavior of birds living in these areas.

"Light pollution is more subtle, and its effects have perhaps not received the attention they deserve," said Bart Kempenaers, a researcher with Germany's Max Planck Institute of Ornithology and first author of a paper that was published online Sept. 18 in the journal Current Biology in a statement. "The findings show clearly that light pollution influences the timing of breeding behavior, with unknown consequences for bird populations."

Kempenaers and his colleagues spent seven years analyzing songbirds that lived in a suburban neighborhood of Vienna that bordered a forested area. Between 2008 and 2014, the researchers studied the male and female birds that nested close to street lights and compared their breeding behaviors with those of birds that lived closer to the forest.

One of the team's findings was that the females living near street lights were laying eggs nearly two days ahead of the forest-based birds. Scientists said the lit-up neighborhood that didn't live near the street lights laid their eggs on a schedule that more closely resembled that of the forest birds.

Additional results revealed the males of the species were not nervous in the artificial lights-at-dusk. According to the researchers, the male birds living near street lights started singing long before the other males living in darker areas of the neighborhood, and long before the sun rise actually arrived.

"The advance in timing of dawn singing was enormous in species with a dawn chorus," Kempenaers said. He asserted dawn song matters relative to sunrise. "Kempenaers said his researchers serve to their peers. "This suggests that species that start singing long before dawn are more sensitive to light pollution."

Hunting bird song earlier than usual because of bright street lights may annoy the people living in the neighborhood, especially those trying to sleep past dawn, but the town was no less than the effect of the lights on the bird behaviors could affect the long-term survival of the species. For example, Kempenaers and his colleagues noted, female birds may be losing their mate quality because the dawn's preparing at the same time. The result is that when the chicks hatch, their parents may not be able to find enough food to feed them.

The report will appear in the Oct. 12 print edition of Current Biology.

DISCOVER

Maxine Sandra Ballon

BUSINESS

US data show economy stabilizing

German business confidence rises

FRANKFURT—German business confidence posted a surprise rise in September to levels last seen in June 2007 before the onset of the worst global slump since the 1930s Great Depression, a key survey showed Friday.

The IFO economic research institute said its business confidence index edged up to 96.8 points in September from 96.7 points in August.

The widely watched reading of sentiment in Europe's biggest economy had been expected to dip to 106.5 points, according to analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires.

"Firms are again more satisfied with their business situation than in the previous month," IFO president Hans-Werner Sinn said.

In the crucial manufacturing sector, "the business climate has hardly changed," he added.

The outlook brightened to recalling for the third month now

ning and also perked up in the construction sector.

IFO's report came in contrast to gloomy news on Thursday when the Ifo institute showed that activity across the Ukrainian economy dumped to a seven-month low in September as a leading indicator logging its steepest fall since the early days of the global financial crisis.

The IFO institute surveyed around 7,000 German manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail companies each month to establish the widely-followed index of business sentiment.

The central bank and economists now expect full-year German growth of at least 2.5 percent, probably outpacing advanced economies in the 16-nation eurozone, and in Japan and the United States.

In October, the German government is expected to raise its official 2010 forecast of 1.4 percent growth. AFP

CITYLAND DOES IT AGAIN
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Rising gained a solid reputation in the project, with enhanced delivery and completion of all its projects. Cityland proudly announces that The Manila Residences Tower 1 is available for turnover 6 months ahead of schedule.

The property easily completion is a true testament to the company's continuous commitment to bring value to its clientele, many of whom are repeat buyers. Each turnover represents trust, time is valuable and high cost of transportation, so they can focus on their jobs to establish their name and earn an early return on investment.

THE MANILA RESIDENCES is a 38-storey residential office and residential condominium at 2326 Taft Avenue, Manila. It is right along the bustling stretch of the University Belt with schools nearby including Far Eastern University, Adamson University, College of St. Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, DLSU-Manila, Mapua Institute of Technology, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Centro Escolar University, Philippine Normal University, Manila Central University, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Arellano University, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Manila Adventist College, Philippine Women's University, Colegio de Muntinlupa, Technological University of the Philippines, Manuel L. Quezon University, Jose Rizal University, National University, Far Eastern University-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation, Manila Doctors College, Manila Central University-Filamer Christian University, Mapua Institute of Technology-Laguna Campus, Colegio de Sta. Rosa, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Laguna Campus, Arellano University-Jose Rizal Campus, Arellano University-Clark Campus, Arellano University-Pampanga Campus, Arellano University-Andres Bonifacio Campus, Arellano University-Dr. Carlos Tayag Campus, Arellano University-Apalit Campus, Arellano University-Pasay Campus, Arellano University-Legarda Campus, Arellano University-Juan Sumulong Campus, Arellano University-Cavite Campus, Arellano University-Malolos Campus, Arellano University-Mexico

PROPERTY

Edna Cesar O. Mangunay

SOLAR panels and solar water heaters are mounted on the utility deck.

'Green' house wins architecture design excellence awards

"PRIVATE Residence" makes use of fluorescent/heat-resistant (UV) sunlight-screening sheets (LED) lighting.

By Erroman Cusa

FOR HIS entry "Private Residence," 37-year-old architect Miguel Angelo Maloles bagged the top plum for his exquisite and eco-friendly house design at the Metrobank Arts and Design Excellence (MADE) Awards last week.

The entry, which stood out from among entries nationwide, was described by the judges as "characteristic of contemporary Philippine green architecture that maximizes passive cooling, natural light and the use of active façade systems, and utilizes recycled wood and indigenous materials."

Miguel, who comes from a family of architects (his father is pioneering Filipino architect Bobby Maloles, an Ivor) said the honor that his win came as a pleasant surprise and was "totally unexpected" being a

MAKOÑA

newbie at the MADE competition.

"I really didn't expect much from the competition, it was a nationwide awards. When I got the invitation, I only thought it won't hurt if I give it a shot," Miguel said, adding that he initially wanted to submit his own private home as his entry in the competition but it didn't meet the requirements.

Then the idea of entering "Private Residence" in the competition came up. He pinned high hopes on the project and left everything to chance.

Coming off from the shadows of his dad Bobby made the first no qualm, he said. "The win, more than anything else, defined who I am as a person and what I realize as a professional," he quipped.

His entry was constructed in 2006 and completed a year after. However, he kept his client's identity private. The house is home to a family of five in Dasmariñas City and it uses 30-35 percent less energy, by estimate.

First-timer

A graduate of architecture from the University of Santo Tomas, this is Miguel's first foray into the architecture competition of MADE. His list of "MoM" includes the likes of his father Bobby Maloles, Ray Jones, John Lutter and Frank Lloyd Wright. He took his master's degree in Design Science at the University of Sydney.

In his concept paper, Miguel's design pays nature as the center of the built environment while allowing the user to cohesively interact with his/her surrounding. This allows the house to maximize passive cooling, natural light, and the use of active façade systems. The "active" sunshade system on the main stairwell prevent the stairs from becoming a heat deficiency spaces for hot air from the ground floor to second floor. This prevents heat gain during the day while allowing the house to be translucent at night.

For its ventilation, Miguel created a series of cascading ponds and gardens in the center of the house that allows for winds to cool the temperature resulting in passive cooling the house. The rest of the house makes use of large room that provide ample shade in the rooms and help keep interiors cool prior to entering the house.

Other green features

"Private Residence" takes pride in its other green features. It uses low voc (volatile organic compounds) paints for interior wall and eco pumps and biological filter for the fishponds. Most of the materials used are made of recycled wood especially for stairs and trellis. Miguel also tapped indigenous materials and plants for the interiors. These, he said, helped

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Helping homeless families help themselves

By Cherlei E. Bulos

THEY ARE now being called informal settlers and yet, their problem remains the same: most of them live on pieces of properties that will soon become business or commercial centers and the only option they have is head to their designated (and usually remote) relocation site or avoid their ground against the demolition team and police officers.

"It's really depressing to see them sprawling off with the authorities and to most investors, both sides usually suffer injustice. While our need the infrastructure that will rise on these sites in questions, we can't just let these informal settlers scattering all over Metro Manila. There must be a way that is both satisfying to all parties concerned," said Subdivision and Housing Developers Association Inc. national president Manny Crisostomo.

Recently, SHDA partnered with the Coalition for the Homeless Foundation Inc., which is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, nonpartisan and socially-oriented organization that assists play a key role in improving the lives of the underprivileged homeless 50 percent of the population is with special focus to providing them basic shelter assistance.

It is estimated that at least 26 million Filipinos, or 30 percent of the population, are living near or below the poverty line.

A family of five falls under the poverty line if it earns URGOT or P7,021.00 a month, according to the latest government statistics.

Thinking of ways

Crisostomo said that for years, his fellow developers have been thinking of ways on how they will be able to help some of these informal settlers.

"We wanted to target as beneficiaries the Big Big members and other qualified families living below the poverty threshold, working in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas, and who are unable to afford the installment housing packages regularly available in the market," Crisostomo explained.

He added that the SHDA-CHFI included housing will target janitors, messengers, security guards, drivers, school teachers, policemen, soldiers, factory workers as well as self-employed individuals.

The houses that will be developed will consist of medium-rise walk-up condominium buildings with unit floor area ranging from 20 to and 21 sq. m.

Most of these projects will be located in urban areas of Metro Manila.

Travel distance

"Considering the common complaints of those being relocated to the distance they will have to endure in getting to their place of work, it's only logical to provide them a place where they will no longer have to spend so much on transportation or endure long hours of commute," Crisostomo said.

With average price of each unit targeted at around P500,000, Crisostomo said the proposed interest rate on the housing loan shall be 3 percent per annum payable within a maximum period of 30 years.

"The amortization will be P1,200 a month. We believe this is low enough to be more convenient to the beneficiaries. Besides, both SHDA and CHFI strongly believe that for housing program to succeed, it must not encourage a dole-out mentality," he said.

Crisostomo further explained that the housing program will incorporate values formation among its beneficiaries particularly in the area of credit responsibility including repayment guaranty mechanism that shall ensure the continuity of the housing program.

In order to optimize the benefits, the SHDA-CHFI-mediated housing program for its beneficiaries, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Cou shall endorse accreditation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Philippine Council for Disaster Management Organizations Certification who will help obtain donations of land, facilitate housing permits with regulatory agencies and arrange special housing loan facility with the Home Development Mutual Fund and other government financial institutions.

Crisostomo is confident the project's success considering the CHFI started early last year a similar project in Cavite.

The CHFI took care of developing the 1,334-sq.m property that the municipality of Carmona donated as well as the construction of the three-story building.

Aside from its one of its proponents, the families targeted were school teachers, police officers, military personnel, factory workers, security guards and other professionals who could have at least P7,500 gross monthly income or they could convincingly pay the monthly dues.

The three-story structure only consisted to pay the monthly amortization and a minimal service fee association dues.

"As home builders, we also think about those who can't afford even our cheapest homes. We can't just let them stay living in slums or scrounge existing burrow," explained Bonifacio Abejero, who was also a member of the committee delegated to pool their resources in form CHFI.

He said the eight beneficiaries of the CHFI namely architect Jose de Guzman, Mariano Martinez Jr., Bonai Global Resources, Asiatic Development Corp., Fil-Ahorro Properties Development Corp., Fil-Ahorro Residence Builders Inc. and Pilarica Properties have pooled resources to raise the P50.20 million needed for the project.

View from the hill

"HOME FROM the Hill, into the world I go !..." So goes the hymn of my alma mater. These days, I hear it often after our basketball team wins the games. However, this piece is not about basketball but about living on a hill, seemingly high up above the world.

MANUEL de GUZMAN JR.

Living in the heart of the city has its advantages, such as being closer to malls, offices, commercial establishments... Moms? Just I say three words advantages? Anyway, living outside the city has its advantages too.

If you have seen metro Manila from a helicopter or footpods, you would know what I mean. The smog is just awful, especially after realizing that we breathe it in every day. Air-conditioning your house may only make it more sense you need to consider with secondhand air within your homes plus the fumes any household chemicals emit has not hardly notice anymore.

Within the city, it may not always be a good idea to stay outside for a breath of air. The traffic, the noise, the fumes just add further to rob or injury. This is why it may be wise to move out and seek higher ground. There are people who decide to move away from the city and build their homes where the air is fresher. It must be nice in the side or take a stroll in the morning and possibly see a deer running every day. But more often than not, even such a nice view of the nature, back memories could be priceless.

There are among the advantages enjoyed by residents of Alapang, Silang in Cagayan de Oro. Although the community is merely 15 minutes away from the city, homeowners are rewarded with those invaluable memories every time 15 minutes from the metropolis, I would probably move out there too.

For your comments and questions, please email to mercedes@inquirer.com.

Condo vacation homes reflect residents' varied tastes

FOR ARCHITECT Hadia Hilera, the striking scenery and the splendid layout for the development are the inspiration behind several flat-to-low condominium units she has designed at Pico de Loro Cove, the master-planned residential development of 300 land in Batangas, Batangas.

Hamilo Coast is a network of live-work-play communities envisioned to range in setting from popular waterfront locales to secluded, idyllic-exclusive coves, making for a truly international attraction and middle name of the world's top resort destinations. Its first development, Pico de Loro Cove, offers a convenient blend of leisure living with its picturesque condo vacation homes and exclusive club lifestyle. With the progressive turnover of initial clusters Jacana and Myna has continues the community to soon the bring.

Hilera has tapped her talent whose passion earns a unit at Pico de Loro Cove. Hilera has since then worked on nine condo units at both Jacana and Myna clusters. Word-of-mouth and referrals happened to somehow establish her reputation in working with condo vacation home units within Pico de Loro with ease and relatively less turnaround—and at reasonable rate.

With her hands full of projects, Hilera is more than happy with the pleasure "problem." Each of her creations is a glittering manifestation of her design expertise, sure to the personal vision of the respective residents. After all, working in an environment which the barrel describes as "nature at its best," it is very easy to get inspired and find fulfillment in turning her client's condo home into a haven for luxury living.

Eclectic mix of themes

Hilera does not find it difficult to create inspired leisure living spaces in Pico de Loro as the location itself is amazing. "I initially did not expect to find paradise in Hamilo," she admits. "But the view of nature is spectacular and the idea of having nine condo buildings surrounding a man-made lake is really impressive. At Pico de Loro, units have excellent space planning. Each space converges into one communal area to support how we fill spaces architecturally," she says.

Hilera found the space planning and finish of the units in Pico De Loro generally conducive for creative flair. "While the basic amenities are provided such as bathroom fixtures, kitchen counter and fittings, there is still enough leeway to be creative in decorating with cues according to what residents require," she adds.

What she learned for sure is that the residents at Pico de Loro seem to be an eclectic mix of individuals and families who have their strong personal sense of what a vacation condo home means.

One of her first projects was a one-bedroom 49-square-meter unit which she turned into a modern stainless home that exudes sophistication and luxury. Because of the efficiently-cut and sized unit, there were no major renovations implemented. For accent, they dropped the ceiling and installed wall paper as well as laminated wood to achieve their desired clean and uncluttered look. Using only two base colors—white and light mocha—the mood envelopes the residents with a relaxing atmosphere, which is a must in every leisure home.

EN GARDE dining area

THE BALCONY of the 49-sqm one-bedroom unit opens up to a spectacular mountain view.

Despite these disparate visions of leisure living, to the end, Hilera maintains that each unit she has designed in Pico De Loro is a reflection of the marvelous natural environment in which the development is situated. The use of calming color schemes, comfortable furniture and ambient lighting complements the view of the mountains and the lagoon. She adds that the use of natural elements such as stone, flowing fabric, rugs and even framed pictures of the sea, allows unit owners to be one with nature beyond the walls of their unit.

This is evident in a two-bedroom unit which Hilera transformed into an luxurious executive home. Hardly any of commonly used on the accent walls to preserve a calming feel throughout the unit. Interestingly enough, the indigenous living material applied on the walls and on the bed's headboard leaves a hint of local flavor to the design—as if to unconsciously illustrate that "country living" does not only pertain to American countryside. The overall effect is a totally relaxing atmosphere within the unit.

Functional pieces

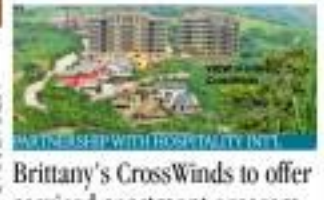
A believer in American architect Louis Sullivan's assertion that "Form follows function," Hilera also incorporates functional pieces into the living spaces of each condo unit. "The principle is architecture is also true in the Philippine sala: have a purchase for keeping a lot of stuff in the house. That is why I provided a lot of storage spaces throughout the unit," she says.

Indeed, items such as the bed, the center table and high cabinets around the unit were all designed with functionality in mind. Two sofas, for example, have pull-out beds under each. Hilera says that this allows unit owners to randomize their guests and accommodates them should they want to spend the weekend at Pico de Loro. And with a place so beautiful and a view so breathtaking, there is no doubt that no one who steps foot in this leisure community would ever want to leave.

With more residents being retirees, businessmen and professionals who have families to stay away to Hamilo for retreat and relaxation, Hilera believes in value-added service.

"There are so many things to do at Pico de Loro so residents are sure to stay at least overnight. They have the beach, nature activities such as hiking and water sports, as well as a fresh and country club which houses conventional amenities and facilities," she explains. Indeed, a home away from home is the best thing to look forward to in this luxurious leisure residential development.

A TROPICAL-feel for another one-bedroom unit is created through the use vibrant colors and cheerful accessories.



Brittany's CrossWinds to offer serviced apartment program

At 31st grand blessing of the Grand Quarter Tower 2...a charming, medium-rise condominium development with, as CrossWinds—Brittany is endowed to have partnership with Hospitality International Inc., which is envisioned to provide a new avenue for unit owners to make the most out of their investments. To ensure success, the Grand Quarter Serviced Apartment program will take the individually owned condominium units and pool them together to operate as a hotel.

"This is something that we at Britton and Vineyard, its holding company, thoroughly studied and explored because we understood exactly how valuable an investment a home is to its owner. Anything that could possibly affect the value of our developments—all which the value of the unit or homeowner's investments are directly tied to—is a priority and is always taken seriously. This program is envisioned to enhance the property value and offer a premium to the owners. We are truly very proud to be able to offer this option to our homeowners," said Brittany chief operating officer Camille Villar.

Villar explained that they wanted to be assured that the program would be run according to the highest standards that the management itself to its own undertakings to ensure that the interests of both the Grand Hotels development itself and the individual owners of the units at Grand Quarter are secured. "Plus, the rhythm of life.

HEI is operating six properties, two in Boracay and Vineyard, its holding company, thoroughly studied and explored because we understood exactly how valuable an investment a home is to its owner. Anything that could possibly affect the value of our developments—all which the value of the unit or homeowner's investments are directly tied to—is a priority and is always taken seriously. This program is envisioned to enhance the property value and offer a premium to the owners. We are truly very proud to be able to offer this option to our homeowners," said Brittany chief operating officer Camille Villar.

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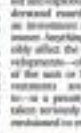

LIU

Correction

THE NAME of Shinsuo Inc. chief executive officer should have appeared as Charlie Liu in last week's story titled "Living, breathing 'green' foods will be trend first." It was adversely printed as Charlie Yu.

We regret the error.

THE BEAM part of the house makes use of large trees that provide much shade to the rooms and help keep breezes cool prior to entering the house.

MAHOSA logs indigenous materials and plants for the interiors.

'Green' house wins architecture ...

From page B1-1

keep a low count for the project's carbon footprint.

The house was designed with a dual plumbing system for water conservation that allows for 73 percent water recovery. Water coming from the roof and decks are collected into a grey water tank and used for flushing toilets and for garden irrigation.

"Private functions" only makes use of compact fluorescent (CFL) and light-emitting diode (LED) lighting. It also incorporates the use of renewable energy, photovoltaic panels (solar panels) and a solar water heater that are mounted on the utility deck. Both systems combined reduce the house's total energy requirements by 5 to 10 percent.

As an architect, Miguel plans to play a major role in changing minds and to teach the public about sustainable design and its importance in both our humanity and the environment. He believes that architecture must have a sense of place, and so he designs tropical organic houses which are perfectly built for Philippine climate.

Aside from the architecture category which won for Miguel (P200,000 in cash and a glass trophy), interior designer Hedgehog Bikes was accorded the special prize for his entry "Eco-lectic Reflection," which featured furniture and accent pieces made from refurbished and recycled materials.

The annual event, which carries the theme "Your environment shapes you," gathered a vibrant mix of artists, art patrons, business and government leaders, diplomats and cultural advocates.

A privileged lifestyle awaits at *Manhattan Heights*

Dining is a personal affair at the Oasis.

Travel a place of privilege where you and your family can experience a richer lifestyle. It's located right within the Araneta Center, the country's fast shopping and leisure complex.

Manhattan Heights, the third phase of the highly successful Manhattan Garden City, will soon be the focal point for modern living. From your deluxe unit, all you need is take an elevator ride to unwind amidst the greens. The fourth-floor podium deck features more than 20 different amenities – such as a swimming pool, fitness station, massage deck and jogging path – so you and your family don't need to go far from the city for some R&R.

Better yet, go up each tower hosts a sky garden at the top four floors. Read a book, listen to the birds chirp, or just chill out to your favorite iPod tunes. Such is the privilege of having your private garden high above the metro's hustle and bustle.

Since your home will be at the heart of the metro's shopping mecca, you just need to take a stroll through Manhattan Heights' elevated walkways to reach Gateway Mall. Have a romantic dinner at the Oasis. Or if it's action you crave for, dash to the Araneta Coliseum to cheer for your favorite PBA team.

When it comes to work or school, Manhattan Heights also gives you an advantage. The Araneta Center hosts both LRT2 & MRT3 stations, so no more traffic woes for you from now on. The University Belt is only 20 minutes away, while Ortigas and Makati also take a short ride.

According to Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu, "Only at Manhattan Heights will you get to live within the vibrant Araneta Center, enjoy a diverse set of amenities and pitch for the environment every time you take the trains. That's modern city living at par with other world-class cities such as New York, Singapore and Hong Kong."

To experience a privileged lifestyle at Manhattan Heights, please visit Megaworld at 810-3333, visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall, or check out www.themanhattangardencity.com.

Families get to experience a privileged lifestyle at Manhattan Heights within the Araneta Center.

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at Manhattan Garden City
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At Manhattan Heights, your home is so much more than your sense of well-being.

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That '70s girl

Flirty '70s era is making its way back into our style closets: wide-leg pants, pussy-bow blouses, platforms

By Rosanna Aranas
Contributor

WE'VE WORN the best of fashion eras and have seen them pass by from the luxurious allure of the '20s to the loud excessiveness of the '80s. We've seen the comeback of '90s grunge and the fading of '60s femininity.

It looks like the Glory Days era is making its way back into our style closets. Honestly, this does sound, the decade's sophisticates takes center stage, with style icons like Bianca Jagger, Anita Pallenberg and Jerry Hall in the lead.

Before you get all decked in a slinky, sparkly mini dress, with a mouthful of '70s platform heels...Hold on. Sit, much, for your everyday look...take your cue from the Fall 2013/2011 runways of Chloé, Celine and Ferragamo, with modern takes on the '70s elements. These fashion heroes mixed basic and soft textures; the perfect bal-

(back C2)

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UAAP finalists ADMU and FEU are as different as can be
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That '70s girl

From page C1

once of both ensemble and hemline.

Dress to impress, the '70s way

Look casual and comfy, sink to closes yet flaunt silhouettes in outfit types, blazers, trench and adore keep the look fresh and classic. Think Faye Dunaway's wardrobe in the movie "Network," where power dressing was seen in its finest, with bow sweaters and silky blouses. Retelling the look by wearing high-waist, wide-leg pants paired with a pussy-bow button-down blouse and a fitted blazer.

Ruffled blouses layered with tailored vests and brocade jackets can be paired with leggings, bandage skirts or high-waist shorts. This look is reminiscent of '70s rock and roll royalty.

Give the mock turtleneck top a try by layering it under printed rompers. All of which could be paired with sky-high platforms for that extra height. Accessorize with chic boots, oversized earrings and rayon stacks of bangles. Finish the look with the ubiquitous floppy hat for instant '70s sophisticated appeal.

Check out Rosanna's blog at www.2bfashion.wordpress.com

DIFFERENT pinstriped blouse worn with wide-leg pants.

WEAR ruffled blouses with cropped vests and add a floppy hat as a final touch!

TRY TO rock the '70s with animal prints, a must this season.

'70s chic checklist:

1. Wide-leg trousers
2. Ruffled/bow blouse
3. Tailored vest
4. Fitted blazer
5. Floppy or wide-brimmed hat
6. Chic boots
7. Statement earrings
8. Suede skirt
9. Leather satchel
10. Beads
11. Skinny belts

They express their fresh, fearless take on style

Story and photos by Renee Cajudo

SPOTTED

DANIELLE BARON: 18 years old, Entrepreneur School of Arts. "I start with my accessories and create the outfit from that." Wears shirt, Charlotte Russe shorts, Michael Kors shoes, Longchamp bag, Forever 21 necklace, H&M hat.

JO-ANN RAMIREZ: 23 years old, Juliet Rubbert Powers. "The kids who are starting to dress up...always follow comfort first! iPhone, magazines will be the best source of inspiration." Wears dress, Charles & Keith shoes, Aldo earrings, Topshop bandana.

RYAN LEE: 17 years old, Young@Heart School, Cambo. All clothes from Korea.

JAZZ YU: 30 years old, Lyceum. "I don't like matching pieces." Wears MCQ/UA top, Bershka shirt, Celine shoes.

Traveling *light*

By Carlos Cunningham
Contributor
Photography by Ray Macaso

Living life out of a suitcase, international model JC Cunningham breaks down his style essentials

UNITED STATES-BORN half-Irish and half-Korean international model Jon "JC" Cunningham lives the life most of us can only dream of. At a young age of 24, he is living the fast lane—it is rare to meet up all over Asia for commercials and endorsements, parties all night and gets loads of free things for simply looking good. The life he lives now is a far cry from the life he had planned for himself.

Born and raised in Michigan, JC is a double major in International Business and Marketing. From to and Valley State University with a minor in Asian studies. He debunks the stereotypical "dumb" model. He was a marketing consultant for a pressure company before he was "discovered."

For all the glam his job allows, JC is reminded to trust "it's simpler and more quiet life."

But that might have to wait a bit longer because there is no sign of him slowing down from his modeling career.

On his quick stop to Manila, we catch up with him and get his view on the medieval nomadic life he lives and see how it has impacted his style.

Style profile:

Style icons: Anyone from Tokyo.

Style advice: Do your own thing...but don't get too crazy.

What's your lazy-day outfit?

My favorite pair of fitted jeans and a tank top.

What is the best thing to wear to a casting?

Castors would want to see you in a fitted/modern/polo with basic jeans and tennis shoes.

Living life out of a suitcase as an international model, what are essentials you carry?

You got to keep the basics in order to travel light: Bring things you can easily dress up and down in. Neutral tops like white, black and grey. Clean basic shoes and you'll also need a formal suit.

How has modeling to different parts of the world influenced your style?

Modeling in different areas has definitely influenced my style, mostly through seeing models from every continent and seeing how they dress. You can find patterns in styling and what's "trendy" in each group and incorporate it into your own style.

What country would you say has the best fashion sense?

I like Hong Kong's fashion sense. It's a mash up of international brands and "hot fashion" like H&M, Zara, and a lot of local designers. This also keeps fashion reasonable priced, so you see styles from a whole variety of social and economic backgrounds.

Being half-Korean, would you say K-Pop culture has influenced your style sense?

No, not at all.

What trend would you never want to see coming back?

The "tuxtashy" shirts, the ones that popped up at every kiosk in the mall like 10 years back. They're tiny, tiny scrunched shirts that when you put them on, they stretch out to your mid area. Why in your such a thing! They were a terrible idea then and still are a terrible idea now and no human should be size-five-all.

Who would be the worst-dressed celebrities for you?

I don't know of any that constantly dress poorly. Some have their bad days but don't want look with something great a week later.

Soundtrack of your style?

"Vampire Weekend," he shot.

What was the worst style moment of your life?

When I was 13 years old, I refused to wear any pants that were not sweat pants. I was home-schooled and I'm from a cold climate, but really there was no excuse.

Any advice to Filipino guys on how better to carry themselves or how to improve their style?

Eat a healthy balanced diet, because by losing fat changes the way you hold yourself. Nothing looks as good as confidence: it never goes out of style.

NIGHT OUT

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

PICTURAL

CASTINGS

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Opposites collide

UAAP finalists ADMU and FEU are as different as can be

FEU's Mikoh Gomez and ADMU's John Ervin and Nico Salva

By Adrian M. Cu
Contributor

AFTER 15 games, two more left, acts all that's standing between a team and glory. On one side, back-to-back defending champions Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles, on the other, the hoopla-hauling, MVP-boasting Far Eastern University Tamaraws. Will we see the start of a new dynasty, or the continued reign of the defending champions? We'll see things play out. Meanwhile, here both sides got to this point, in a scary-search telling.

Offense vs defense

Basketball games are won by teams that put the ball (the name comes through the top). Question is: Do you try to score the most baskets, or prevent your opponent from doing the same? Ask that from an Eagle and a Tamaraw, and you'll get different answers.

The Toms are the league's most prolific offense. Though their decision to switch to a triangle offense early in the offseason raised a lot of eyebrows (because of the difficulty to master the system), the move by coach Aricel Cipriano seemed to have paid off. FEU makes the most number of shots per game, while converting at the best clip, 44.3 percent shooting. As a result, FEU scores a gaudy 78.07 points a game and it does so effortlessly by tossing it over just 12.43 times.

The Eagles do the opposite, limiting opponents to just 34.61 percent shooting, forcing teams make, on average, just 22 field goals a game. Ateneo is also the best team at controlling their rebounds, snatching the most defensive rebounds. Offensively, they're no slouches, but they prefer to do things methodically attempting and making the most low chances, and on a league-best 68.16 per-cent clip to boot.

Star quotas vs under the radar

Do you like ticket? If you do, FEU maybe your team. They have on their line-up, the current Most Valuable Player, RR Garcia, the current Rookie of the Year, Terrence Romeo, and two Smart Gilas players in Mikoh Gomez and Lawrence Domingo. Romeo and Garcia also happen to be part of this season's Mythical Five.

On the other hand, Ateneo went into this season without stars, but they've done pretty well. The graduation of Jai Reyes, Rabeh Al-Hussaini and Sonny Thoss left a gaping hole in the lineup, but multiple players have stepped up all throughout the season, with new heroes being discovered at every turn. And while the lack of a go-to guy might be fatal, the opposite bus to game plan, knowing that any player can have a big night and earn Ateneo.

THE SHOWDOWN between Eagles and Tamaraws is on today. RAMON MUNOZ

Veterans vs neophytes

Being back-to-back champions, the Ateneo Blue Eagles know how to play on the big stage, to those of the tantrum-ic limits, and with a ton of experience on their shoulders. In their first coach, Norman Black, who has won titles in the PBA while calling the shots, to level-headed tactical maestro-mind, Given enough preprime, as seen in the way they dismantled Adamson in the Final Four and close shave La Salle in the second round), and coach Black can theoretically diagnose a defense to any opponent.

It's been a while since 2005, the last time FEU was playing for a championship in the UAAP. Since then, they've had to make do with mediocre league ex-its, PBL championships and Champions League appearances, but there don't seem to be any of the big pitfalls that so the Toms will hope to adjust quickly to the extra scrutiny as for their head tactician, Cipriano (on O-S in postseason matches up until this season, where he faced off against another rookie post-season coach, Bonito Pumaren. Pushing him through, is the fact that Toms head-ball serve essentially as his audition for an extension at FEU, as his contract expires after this season.

Bumpy roads and very bumpy roads

FEU had from the start as the team to beat, the FEU Tamaraws seemed to be sure that they wouldn't fall to the same script that they had been using in past seasons: Strong regular season showings before embarrassing exits in the Final Four. Though they managed to come to a 9-0 first round record, the Toms got rocked at the start of the second round by Adamson, and their get blown out of the water by DLSU later on. They needed overtime to defeat DLSU again and clinch their spot in the finals.

The Ateneo side of things looks more like a rollercoaster, with highs and lows throughout the season. Things started out gloomy, thanks to a first game loss to FEU. The champs would bounce back nicely, but would get sidetracked by a loss to their archrivals. A nice six game winning streak, capped by a blowout revenge game versus DLSU, would ignite me, ending at the hands of last season's finals bridesmaid UE. Two more wins later, and they'd fall again to FEU, before knocking off Adamson easily in the final Four. Now they're back in the finals, looking to make it three in a row.

Suspended and suspension

FEU has persisted and thought it to be no one-sided preseason subject. Controlling was ejected early in the DLSU game, after a tackle to guard Simon Atkins, followed by what looked like a hard elbow on a referee who was trying to separate the two. It was assessed by many to be the latter to earn an extra game as well, but instead, the Olin player would suit up, since the foul (but got him issued was reportedly just a technical for trash talking.

Unending though, has been mediocre, averaging just 6.4 points a game. As replacement, Fred Sanga, was actually the one who forced overtime versus DLSU. Coupled with the fact that Sanga seems to win for whenever he plays Ateneo, he might actually be a match for Carrabing.

On the other hand, Ateneo has been without Nico Salva, who had helped was confirmed on Monday by coach Black that reserve center Jason Ravena would be suspended for game one, as punishment for accumulating too unsportsmanlike fouls throughout the season. It was initially thought that the center would be suspended for the start of the Final Four, but apparently that was not the case as the suspension was upheld by the UAAP commissioners. That leaves the Blue Eagles shorthanded versus the Toms of FEU big men. That might mean minutes for JP Erram, or even a lot of small ball, but Ateneo has been in this game before and Nico Salva at center.

While all the statistics point to FEU winning, let's not forget the fact that Ateneo has yet to lose. Hasta this season, though both games came down to the wire), the intangibles are strongly on Ateneo's side. Suffice to say even if you're not Toms either school, these games will be worth watching.

The UAAP Finals kicks off at 4 p.m., today, Saturday, at the Araneta Coliseum.

A Maroon and a Warrior do their curtain call

By Patrick Leonard Mayo
Contributor

THE UPCOMING FINALS MEETS in the UAAP means a new chapter for the teams to be written in the history books of basketball and become immortalized in the world of college hoops.

But for teams like The University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons and the University of the East Red Warriors, who didn't make it to the playoffs, the season wasn't only a heartbreak, it also meant saying goodbye to some of their trusted veterans.

2bt caught up with two players who have suited up for their last UAAP game.

Woody Co

Small Forward, UP Fighting Maroons
Course: BS Tourism

The bulky forward from Santo Tomas High School joined UAAP five years ago and immediately made an impact by winning the Rookie of the Year award. Since then, he has become one of the league's standout scorers and the Maroons' team captain and go-to guy in clutch situations.

How did you feel going into your last game?

I was really not happy because we have been losing, but still, since it was my last game, I was willing to play it out.

What would you consider as the most memorable moment of your career as a Fighting Maroon?

Maybe when I was Rookie of the Year but it was really the five years of playing for UP it was really an honor.

What are your plans?

My immediate goal is to finish school, then hopefully work my way up into the professional league.

James Martinez

Point Guard, UE Red Warriors
Course: BS Business Administration (graduate), HRM (second course).

The quirky point guard who played for the San Beda Red Cubs in high school will be remembered in UAAP for his resiliency and set-side sniping ability that has brought victories for the Red Warriors.

Unable to play last year because of an ACL tear he suffered in a pre-season game, he bounced back from what would have been a career-ending injury and helped drive the team to a famous surge in the second round.

How did you feel going into your last UAAP game?

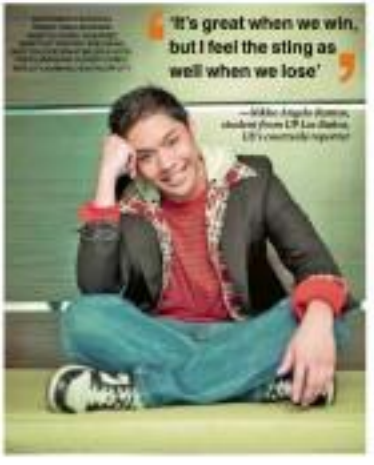
Since it was my last game, I should play my very best in the UAAP and for my alma mater.

What would you consider as the most memorable moment of your career as a Red Warrior?

On my third year, we had a 14-0 record and we were at number one.

What are your plans?

I plan to continue my second course, Hotel and Restaurant Management and to play for the Asean Basketball League or the Philippine Basketball League and apply for the PBA Draft in 2011.



'It's great when we win, but I feel the sting as well when we lose'

—Mikko Angelo Ramos, student from UP Los Baños, UB's courtside reporter

Honorary Red Warrior

By Basil L. Navarro

HE BABES his for in the air to show unity with the fans of the University of the East (UE) Red Warriors as they sing their hymn. He faces them while he stands right next to their beloved basketball players. He shows them that he is part of their team even if he didn't hail from their school.

UE assistant reporter Mikko Angelo Ramos, 21, is majoring Communication Arts in UP Los Baños. He has the set as 24 Tyler on the show "Pantino Show" every Sunday, 10 a.m., on Magic 89.5 (one of his avid listeners is UE's team captain).

"I like listening to his show. Even when you're just talking to him you know that he's smart and knows a lot of things," Junior Maristane says. "He's quite the joker, too. He apologizes to the team because he's not a girl. He thinks all teams want a female courtside reporter. Imagine."

James adds that it's a plus for them that Mikko's very energetic whenever it's his turn to report on the team. He says that they like Mikko a lot and see him as a brother. He is sometimes affirmed by his teammates, Paul Lanaz.

"I like it that he knows how to approach and talk to the players. He even joins us in our warm-up by playing one-on-one against us," Paul says.

Lanaz didn't even kick his knees on the court each time his Red denies such occurrence ever happening. He says Mikko knows how to play good basketball.

Mikko reciprocates their admiration with loyalty. When the team was down by 10 points in the first half, he told them he will be one that the team "will keep on fighting because they're not used to losing."

If that's not team spirit, I don't know what is.

What is the weirdest thing you did in school?

Upkayad as a matter-a-play. My role required for me to get seduced at the very start of the play.

If your life was a song, it would be? "Tonight Forever" by Jay-Z.

What is your guilty pleasure? Taylor Swift's music.

Where can people usually find you in school? Basketball court and the student radio station.

Why did you apply to be a courtside reporter? For fame, an athlete my self, I feel always have to love watch basketball. My two passions in broadcasting and sports are perfectly combined in being a CSR.

What was the first thing you did when you found out that you got the job? It was during a morning with all the AJ&C-CBS sports teams and personalities. I stunned myself, went to the bathroom and jumped up and down.

Do you read online threads about you? I try not to. I was taught to focus on the job and not open myself to possible distractions.

Have you always liked basketball? I've always been an LA Laker fan. I tell people all the time: "If you cut me, I'll bleed purple and gold."

What is the toughest part of your job? Getting too involved, I guess. It's great when we win, but I feel the sting as well when we lose.

What is the weirdest thing you can find inside the dugouts? As a girl, I've been known to keep those things a secret. It's part of the "Bro Code." Hahaha!

My radio show says a lot about my humour ... I get a great chance to express myself and share things with our listeners.

Librarian are for Mid-day naps

The most essential gadget for my education is: It's my wally a gadget, but it always helps when I dribble a basketball while I study.

Schools should give discounts or... Use of facilities if the activity is considered "extremely fun."

Models *off duty*

Aside from the collections, there's something to look forward to during fashion week—like unmade-up models

Text by Luis Carlo San Juan
Photos courtesy of Fashion Spot

THE RUNWAY shows have ended, the crowd has gone, but it's not really over. People wait for the models to come out. There's another show coming up—this time the models strutting in their personal style.

Watching these "glamorous" regular shows will endless individual style is one of the most inspiring elements of any fashion week.

Alejandra Alonso
A graphic tee with a pair of black tights, plus this season's cutest colored bomber jacket get a long way.

Kelly Moreira
Nothing beats the simple elegance of a classic white shirt paired with black trouser. It is always classic. Just finish off with a biker smile.

Sigrid Agren
The military look is edgy, so keep that dress pieces perfect pair with a cat bag—soft tones go together.

Liu Wen and Bonni Cheng
One must appreciate the versatility of the basic coat—and what it can be paired either with an ethnic graphic shirt or a classic striped blouse.

Coco Rocha
Soft pop that takes it up a notch. Mix of lace sleeves, bi-multi print bottom.

Nimue Smit
Who says boots are for kids? They can be awesome shoe accessories.

Kristina Romanova
When dressing up graphic dress, you don't really need to accessorize. Let the print do the talking.

Abbey Lee Kershaw
A neutral piece like this sweet blazer complemented with a slightly graphic blue dress. Slip on to some sequined men's black boots for added sparkle.

SPEAKERS Raja Laurel, Ivy Almeda, Kenneth Cobonpue, Cynthia Alonso and Raymond Isaac

CONCEPT drawn

'Play, play, play' –Kenneth Cobonpue

Design gurus give advice to students

By Joi-Angelo Q. Segovia

SCHOOL of Fashion and the Arts (SoFA) celebrated its third year by hosting a symposium at Cinnamon 2 in Rockwell Power Plant Mall with five leading designers—fashion's Raja Laurel, interior design sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almeda, photographer Raymund Isaac, and furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue.

Outside the cinema was a booth where guests signed up for SoFA workshops: Basic Make-Up, Basic Fashion Making and Sewing, Fashion Journalism, Digital Photography for Kids, and Fashion Styling apprenticeship.

Guests settled in the theater, sipping complimentary drinks from Big Chill as foreign music played. After the lights went out, the opening of the "Inviolable Ideas" exhibit.

As Vivian Lim Lo from Home recounted on a slideshow, "The industry boomed and there was a need for more designers, more stores, more furniture, more everything. Everyone was doing it."

Laurel and Isaac expressed resentment for today's fashion students. "I envy those starting out photography," said Isaac. "Because you have so much to learn. This is why I like teaching classes: To get back to basics."

Emphasizing careers in fashion, Laurel encourage, "I really wish I could be a stylist, now," he said.

The designers discussed their creative process, finishes of closets, living rooms, and luxury chairs finished by on the spot. Cobonpue, for example, showed how he sketches his ideas and experiments with a roomful of students and guests.

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Laurel shared slideshow of dresses and assets. Isaac shared slides of his photographs, with invaluable lessons through his career (e.g. "There are no original ideas, only innovations"). Displays of dioramas and Cobonpue's works were punctuated by appearances of sofas and sofas, as sketches transformed on screen into eye-popping showrooms and furniture.

The speakers talked about their inspirations, how for Laurel it came. "This is where my money goes," he joked. "Traveling. I design clothes that capture the essence of my destinations."

One of Cobonpue's works, an exquisite swan sofa, drew gasps for its inspired hand. Some. A crushed Coke can. "Never keep the child in you," Cobonpue said. "Play, play, play."

Isaac showed a photo of a woman seemingly bent in mid-air as a volcanic ash cloud of orange fabric towered above her. Be a glowing rock formation. "People always believe in fire."

Turn to C2

Winning against a broken heart

Instead of simply reminiscing and moping around, I worked hard to become the person even I would love

By Micah Lims
Student correspondent,
Ateneo de Manila University

WHILE all senses of this a broken heart has this incredible power to make everything hurt and everything hurtful, it's easy to believe that there is no end to all the hurting. But when I had my heart broken and found myself just hanging and wondering if letting it all go would feel the right thing, I realized that all I needed to do was to make the conscious effort to choose being okay.

Pull yourself together

I scoured everywhere for answers: heartbreak playlists, personal rituals, I later learned, do not cut it. It dawned on me: If I keep myself from perceiving things positively, then nothing could ever pull me out of the fog I felt in.

Like a lot of broken-hearted girls, I also resisted a seemingly-ironic memory that would bring me and the boy I liked back together. That moment wherein everything would seem as if being with that one person was the only thing that mattered.

But after months of disconnection, I realized, if none of us were willing to make any relationship work again, then our parting was necessary and final. If we really wanted our relationship to work out, then we wouldn't choose to sit down doing nothing about it.

Realizing this, instead of simply reminiscing and moping around, I worked hard to become the person even I would love.

Remember that you are strong

To keep myself from feeling downright pathetic, I enrolled in self-improvement classes, applied for a job, and made new friends. The more I put myself out there, no matter how embarrassing the side-effects of my actions were, the more strength and confidence I gained to move on with my life.

This, I have seen, I heartbreak and loneliness are not enough to eliminate a person. In all truth, we're all stronger than we think we are and we have more than we think we do. You have survived so far.

Appreciate all the love you get

Knowing that my life isn't dependent on my relationship with a single person, it became easier to get up and dust myself off all the pain I was feeling.

My friends and family were a big part of the healing process and even redefined love for me. I learned it's not always about fireworks and butterflies in the stomach—because I found how the afternoons my friends sat on the washroom floor to be with me when all I could do was cry.

It was the same for my family when they listened to me as I was tearing my eyes out, instead of scolding me for going on with a boy even if I knew it was against the rules. There were no fireworks and butterflies during those times, but still, I deserve them as filled with love.

Know that you will be okay

Losing someone is never easy. The thing with life is that it's never eager to please. Sometimes, we have to fight for our right to be happy. When I made the decision to just to let go and be okay all the pain didn't vanish at once, but I was able to carry on with more confidence and faith in myself.

In times of a broken heart, the secret you can do is to deny love. Just go forth with as much grace as you can and let in whatever kind of love you find—it won't always be a mistake, but it will always be good.

Sooner or later, I am sure you, you'll find the love you want and it'll even be better than you imagined. You will be okay.

'Play, play, play' ...

From page C5

glance that this was photoshopped."

Imee stressed that last week. "It's not. Creating something like this image in Photoshop will take more than an hour. I only spent five minutes dressing the fabric to mold on to get this image."

It comes on the road that more through speakers' talks was the importance of learning the business of art.

"Designs whose dreams are unattainable and budget-driven," said the filmmaker.

"Keep the demarcation of business and art," said Imee.

Imee recounted how he bought his own Barbie doll, at nine years old, by picking up penny cans from his village, cleaning them up, tying ribbons around them, and selling them in school.

This anecdote tickled the audience members, but he later showed an inclination to cut down on the business portion of his career. "This is the reality," he said. "I suggest you become good in math, then you will be a better designer."

Cobarrubias's talk stressed the importance of identity in design. "What am I contributing to the world of design as Filipinos?" Cobarrubias recalled asking himself after graduating from Industrial Design in Pratt Institute, New York.

Cobarrubias would later be inspired by his family's entertaining industry, his mother a pioneer in developing the trend for furniture.

Cobarrubias has won numerous awards, and his work showcased to book and hats in the US, Italy and Maldives to name a few. "Me and Mrs. Jones (across Road Dos and Angelina Jolie's own) this," he quipped, of a line shaped bed he designed called "Orange."

Cobarrubias said, "In every economy we must make adjustments. In my case, I'm not badly affected. I'm still able to maintain the same production costs with no change to price."

"We are just/ones of dreams," Lizzie spoke of their profession. "We are fairy godmothers."

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Subeditor Editor Pam Pastor

A-LIST

SUPER EXCLUSIVE

'Glee's' back!

By Pam Pastor

THE WAIT is over for "Glee" fans. Last Wednesday, "Gleeks" all over the country stayed glued to their TVs for the return of Rachel, Finn, Quinn, Puck and the rest of the Gleeks.

Filipino Gleeks got an extra treat as Dustin Nguyen-go made her first appearance on the show as Sunshine Corazon, driving Lea Michele's character Rachel Berry green with envy.

Some things have stayed the same— the music is great, Sue Sylvester is still cruel and funny, Rachel still wants all the attention, Puck is still Puck, Kurt still rocks those sweaters.

And some things are different—on top of the new characters, Tina has a new love, Mike is getting more serious, Santana's had surgery, Quinn is no longer pregnant.

The first episode was a great way to kick off what promises to be a very exciting season—with the return of Idina Menzel, Kristin Chenoweth, Jonathan Groff and Josh Groban and a roster of guest stars that include Jayma Mays, Britney Spears, John Stamos and, perhaps Gwyneth Paltrow.

As for cute wools? Better brace ourselves for Britney.

In this exclusive interview, "Glee" executive producers Ilene Chaiken and Ian Brennan spill the beans on "Glee's" second season, the ghost stars, Chaiken and the possibility of an international tour.

What has it been like filming season 2?

Chaiken (IC): Well it's actually been pretty smooth. When we shot the pilot everything took longer, with the shooting the music, recording the music and rehearsing songs. I think the show has told us what it is, as we understand it better and we're better at producing it, we've better at smiling it. And I think the actors feel more comfortable. We kind of go into this second season with a little bit of swagger. I really like how this second season is written and I'm excited for it to air.

What lessons did you take from the first season to the second in terms of storytelling and the things you want to talk about?

Brennan (IB): What was interesting about the first season was that when we did the

GLEE! D4

EXECUTIVE Producer Ilene Chaiken

CHANCE plays Sunshine Corazon on the second season of "Glee."

Graphics Design: Ruben Joshua Cardo
Editing by Hermenia M. Basa-Paz

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Bigger, grander, tastier

Chefs on Parade (COP), the Philippines' foremost culinary showdown, returns with a punch!

THE HOTEL and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP) brings back Chefs on Parade (COP), the Philippines' longest running culinary competition, on Feb. 10, 11 and 12 at the SMX Convention Center. COP's return has gotten the Filipino food industry celebrating. Restaurants and hotels are already preparing their menus as the world will be fielded. HRM colleges and culinary schools are signing up to join; their students have been researching and training for D-day. Rookies have battled COP's comeback as the season to do community's craving for a scrumptious gastronomic experience.

"Chefs on Parade is a prestigious event," affirms Christopher Bird, general manager of the Manila Pavilion Hotel and exe chair of the COP competition and judging committee. "It is recognized as the first national culinary competition in the Philippines and the only culinary event organized by the official association of the industry, the HRAP."

Set on the venue and the line-up of activities, ideas, Chefs on Parade 2011 is set to be the biggest in its history. Skills 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the SMX Convention Center will be utilized for these hill days.

An overwhelming twenty-three categories 134 in the Professional Division and nine in the Student Division) are featured in the competition. Eight of which like the Barista, Market Basket - Asian, Commercial Food Prep Style, Ice Moist - Healthy Lifestyle and Gravier Cake Decorating Do the Spot for Students, are new to COP.

Professional and amateur chefs from all over the Philippines and other Asian countries are set to participate, making COP 2011 the to be remembered for being the "Ultimate Asian Showdown."

Aside from the culinary contests, there will also be several free cooking demonstrations here known chefs, a book launch and several free workshops from industry experts. Two of the biggest highlights will be the presentation of the Larry J. Cruz Culinary Award to an individual who has made a great contribution to the food industry and an Asian and Filipino Culinary Journey featuring humorous cuisine and savory dishes from the Southeast Asian countries.

All these will be open to the public. The HRAP assures that the entrance fee and the tickets will be at popular prices.

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Thunderbird Resorts' run for charity

LET'S MAKE a good memory out of last year's devastating typhoon Ondoy experience. Be part of "Center No Mere" Thunderbird Resorts Run For A Cause this Sunday, Sept. 26. For only Php450 (Php350 for Thunderbird guests), you get a singlet, race bib, Thunderbird Resorts discounts, and most importantly you give a donation to Caritas Manila and help the marginalized communities to prepare for calamities such as typhoons. The race will take place at Thunderbird Resorts West, giving you a challenging yet interesting two-run "Center No Mere" takes you out of your usual running environment, and you get to enjoy the vistas of the Sierra Madre mountain range. You may register for the race at Thunderbird Resorts Inn in Ayala Alabang Commercial Center, Thunderbird Resorts West, R.O.X. in Tre Kot, Tagaytay or selected SM's Sports outlets in the metro. For more information visit www.runcaregivesmo.net

Hilton Cebu's exciting 5th anniversary package

HILTON CEBU Resort and Spa is celebrating its fifth anniversary on Oct. 25. To celebrate this special occasion, the resort is offering a special fifth anniversary package to local Philippine residents. The package is dubbed the "Staycation Deal for P5,555" as the resort is providing 5 special reasons to stay with Hilton. The 5-night stay included fantastic complimentary benefits and discounts in the package that will be incredible for local residents and offer huge savings. The package features P5,555 offers guests deluxe room accommodation with daily breakfast for two, one-way airport pick-up, 20 percent discount on F&B outlets and spa treatments, complimentary use of non-motorized water sports facilities for 30 minutes, a complimentary dessert when dining at Sea restaurant and a special gift upon the resort. The promotion started on Sept. 1 and will run until Dec. 18 for stays between dates. The promotion is open to all local residents of the Philippines and foreign residents with resident certificates. To add to the excitement of the resort's anniversary, an anniversary sale will be held on Oct. 1 to 2 at the Piazza Marina in Ayala Mall, Cebu. Local residents can take advantage of the anniversary package plus other discounted vouchers for F&B and spa. The booth will be open during mall hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more info, contact Hilton Cebu at (032) 520-7777 or e-mail reservations.cebu@hilton.com.

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippine Properties pre-Christmas holiday sale

SHANGRI-LA HOTELS and Resorts Philippine Properties has the best deals for you! Visit the ground floor of Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Galleries at Shangri-La at Greenbelt 5 on Sept. 24 to 26, and enjoy a 3-day mall sale for as much as 50 percent off on rooms, food and beverage, Chi, The Spa and other services at any of the Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts Philippine Properties.

Whether it's unlimited shopping right at the heart of the city or making up to a fresh new breeze, Shangri-La hotels and resorts in The Philippines offer the "Mall Sale" for guests who find comfort in beautiful retreats by the beach or Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa or luxury in a tropical escape at Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa. Choose to home a Mabuti Shangri-La, a serene haven that offers luxurious accommodations right at the entertainment and shopping hub of the cosmopolitan metro and Edsa Shangri-La with residents of lush tropical resort and garden views. A new personality to the Makati, Traders Hotel, Manila also gives panoramic sea views of the famous Manila Bay and Roxas Boulevard.

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Microtel Hotels · Resorts

Super reader Sarah Bautista wins "Define your GPSS Fun" promo

By Bobi Yang
Correspondent

THE SINGAPORE Tourism Board, in partner with Singapore Airlines and The Philippine Daily Inquirer Lifestyle has awarded Sarah Bautista, grand winner of "Define Your GPSS Fun" promo with an all-expense paid trip to Singapore for four days and three nights, complete with flight and hotel accommodations as well as tickets to watch Formula One and its varying night entertainment events. Sarah, a business development specialist at Manila, wowed the judges with her unique and creative captions of photos featuring the participating events and personalities of the 2010 GPSS. She received a surprise entry email on video call specifically after uncovering the prize package published during the three-week promo in Super.

Also present at the awarding was the winner of "GPSS Bloggers' Challenge," Hannah Villasis of Hannahlyrics. She will also fly to Singapore to check out the news of which she is the 1st. For two check out her winning entries featuring the GPSS participating Metro Manila sites on her blog.

The prizes were awarded by Singapore Tourism Board Philippines Area Director Lynelle Snow and Singapore Airlines General Manager Andrew Wallbanks.

SINGAPORE Airlines General Manager Andrew Wallbanks and Singapore Tourism Board Philippines Area Director Lynelle Snow with "Define Your GPSS Fun" winner Sarah Amelyn Bautista (center)

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Discovering Indonesia's culinary treasures

CHARRIE PLAZA Kaliwa Mandaluyong is the culinary theme of Indonesia at Seven Corners Restaurant. Discover breathtaking flavors from Indonesia's spices, the country's most significant culinary treasure. To make the best of these remarkable ingredients, Kaliwa Chefs from Indian Ocean Hotels, Jakarta Shangri-La Hotel and Jakarta Marriott Hotel were specially flown in via Cebu Pacific's extensive Indonesian flavors from Sept. 20 - Oct. 20. Chef Chandi Sutton, chef Nandini Dalikan and chef Rikki Mandasari will share with their culinary creations in each of the restaurant's seven interactive stations. Indonesia is the fifth largest country in the world, made up of 17,000 islands and occupied by more than 200 ethnic groups bringing to the country their own rich cultural influences. Centuries ago, several Indonesian islands were called Moluccas or more widely known as "Spice Islands" for its role in the clove trade. The setting, dinner and lunch at these culinary treasures bring outstanding flavors and textures to every dish. Seven Corners will be fulfilling every culinary enthusiasts' fascination with discovering dishes which can only be achieved with the use of different spices. For information and reservations, please call 633-1122 or e-mail fabio.reservations@kaliwa.com.ph.

Rainy day retreat still on-going at Lancaster Hotel

BEAT THOSE rainy day blues right here in the city. Take advantage of Lancaster's new Manila's "Rainy Days Escape" promotional package still on going until Oct. 15, book an overnight stay at superior suite for only P2,150 per night which enjoys a special breakfast buffet with a view from the top, save instead of at Lobby Bar Lounge, an invitation of the talented, and special giveaways. And should the shopping bug bite, there are also scheduled shuttle service to Ortigas shopping malls. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Gloria Diaz in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Greenhills shopping belt. The amenities boast of all-inclusive accommodations with its 140 hotel rooms, as well as the pristine, executive, deluxe, and Lancaster suites. Each suite have provides a bevy of amenities. Other attractions includes a coffee shop, Lancaster Café and Patisserie, and the Rice Sky lounge bar looking the cathedrals, plus outdoor swimming pool and Gym, and a complimentary shuttle service to and from Edsa Shangrila and Megamall complex. For more information call (632)633-0838, fax (632)632-3838, or log on at www.lancastermanila.com or e-mail reservations@lancastermanila.com.ph.

Richmonde Grill and Exchange Bar diners get lucky treat

SEPT. 30 may not be your usual auspicious date but for Diners at the Richmonde Grill and Exchange Bar, they will be in for a lucky treat. Diners and diners drinking spree with your buddies or a sumptuous buffet spread, both at very, very affordable rates, for only P350 and you can have a bar filled get together with friends and colleagues at the Exchange Bar with the happy hour 1st. Take advantage of this rare offering of bottomless orders of select San Miguel beer products: the bar's featured cocktail drinks, coolers or soda also as sparkling as you can buffet, all at the extended happy hours period of 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and for a very reasonable P550 net, you can have the full spread array of delectable food at the Chef's Choice Buffet Special at the Richmonde Grill. From delectable appetizers to luscious entrees and heavenly desserts, the exquisite banquet will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chef Table Area at the grill. Currently undergoing a transformation set to be unveiled by December of this year. For inquiries and reservations, please call 638-7777 or call the Richmonde Hotel direct at 889-6228. The Richmonde Hotel is located at 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

TALENTED ARTIST MAY BANAWA AT OXFORD SUITES MAKATI

Experience world-class entertainment and fine wine hosted with May's rendition of your favorite oldies, R&B, pop and love duet songs. Catch her lively performance at the O Lounge, Oxford Suites Makati (Oxford corner P. Burgos Streets, Bonifacio Village, Makati City) until December of October (7, 14, 21, and 28). Show starts at 9 p.m. For more information, please call 896-7888.

Manila Pavilion wins two golds in National Food Showdown 2010

MANILA PAVILION Hotel proves itself with two gold medals in the recently concluded culinary competition. The National Food Showdown 2010 held at the SM Trade Fair Hall in Makati City. The contenders' team led by demi chef Michael Bael together with Edwardo Layug Jr. and Randy Alegre of The Restaurant, took the top spot in the grand test Cold buffet challenge and the two impressive three-course meals included among others, goat cheese foie with balsamic reduction, pesto roll, and roasted beef short, lemon meat crumb with spinach and celery relish. For culinary skills, dried mango and pumpkin seeds, baby leeks and bay scallop en ma' mustard with ice oil, and lemon ice schnapps with sweet and sour fruit sauce. Chef de partie Mylee Escobar took another gold for the plated dessert category with his delightfully unique and tastefully sweet creations of banana spiced oat cake with rose cream pie foil, organic green apple, and apricot sauce, flourless chocolate cake with white ganache, pistachio praline, and peach and raspberry sauce, pandan peanut butter cream with nougat mousseline sauce, and, his creativity with wine sabayon and blackberry sauce. The Restaurant's Micheal Mandaluyt and Randy Alegre received a diploma for displaying their impressive culinary skills in the modern chef entry. Pavilion of these splendid gustatory specialties is one of Manila Pavilion's fine specialties restaurants, an specialty propensity the two has to serve a rotating creative culinary team. Manila Pavilion is also part of the Waterfront group of hotels and is located at United Nations Avenue corner Mc. Arthur Street, Ermita, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call 525-1212 extension 2408 or e-mail our e-mail reservations@manilapavilion.com.ph.

'Glee's' back!

MMACE yearenders for new grand stars and children stars.

from page D1

now that summer is over 12 days, from cities throughout the country and it was really successful and the tour sold out in something like 30 seconds, something crazy like that. And what we really noticed is how people responded to our "fans" characters, and even to characters like Santana and Brittany and Artie and Tina. That was really informative for us. So in our second season we really want to focus more on telling those stories. We're bringing in some new characters but we really want to focus on those 12 kids-who are all here-I'd love to love with it a really interesting way.

Can you tell us more about the guest stars for this season?

D: We start off in the first episode you will see a couple of new cast members there in our second episode we have John Stamos who is really, really funny. I just saw the episode a couple of days ago and it really is a cracking funny episode. I hope we'll be able to use him for a while.

How did you cast the new characters?

D: The characters always fit [in the story], but final say[s] on do a specific job of staying centered on what certain episodes are about. That's where the cast comes from, that's where the stories comes from. It's always about what is the theme of that episode. What is that episode about and that's where the casting comes from.

Here in the Philippines, we are excited to see Chaske join the cast. What was it like having her as a guest star?

D: The most exciting thing about having somebody like Chaske come join our program for some of the episodes [is] that she is such an overwhelming talent and everyone was in awe of her and she fit in so well with the cast. I hope, no, I know, all the people that are meeting her for the first time are going to embrace her as much as she is embraced in the Philippines.

It [has] really really good in the first episode?

How do you maintain the focus on the characters and not on the guest stars of the show, especially with the likes of Britney Spears?

D: You will have to wait and see who is actually in episodes as I think the rumors are getting carried away. Some [with] like Britney is just so sensitive I'd so invite to an episode but it's also something not about her it's about our main characters.

S: We've grown so many of fans from people or people who want to come on the show but we don't want to become the love boat. I think what we will do is have maybe one or maybe two cast of themed episodes this season, like a Madonna or a Motown episode, that other than that we'll really only bring in guest stars if it serves the story. What's great is that it's such a luxurious position to be in as people are coming to us offering their services which is really, really flattering, and this is a show that's just emerging in second season so it's really overwhelming.

How has the production of the show changed since the first season of "Glee?"

D: Hopefully we get better at it. There is nothing else like this show that relies as we had to figure things out for the first time in the first season and hopefully we get better at it. Hopefully there will be times shows that have more singing and dancing that more people will find necessary to do a show like this. I think there is nothing wrong with more singing and dancing in the world.

Do you have any plans on expanding the "Glee" tour outside of the US?

D: We loved doing the tour. The cast loved it. It was a fantastic way for us to connect with the audience. Hopefully we'll get out there to Australia again for the challenge is that the show takes too much time to produce. We don't have a lot of time to tour. I think we would all love nothing more than to go on a big fantastic international tour but the question is when do we actually have time and that's something we're trying to figure out right now.

"Glee" Season 3 premiered on Sept. 11. Catch the new episodes on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. via satellite with a primetime telecast at 9 p.m. on Jack TV and ETC. ETC is seen on SKY ch. 22, Sky Cable ch. 16, Destiny Cable ch. 28, and Cable Link ch. 38. Jack TV is seen on Destiny Cable ch. 61 and Cable Link ch. 41. Log on to www.jacktv.com.ph and www.etc.com.ph.

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24/7 SUPER RADAR

Proud to be Filipino

WE ASK four Filipinos who are prominent in their respective fields to answer the question, "What about the Filipino are you most proud of?" Whether discoveries or bestselling activities that highlight the versatility and strength.

Carlos Celdran, cultural activist and performance artist, says he is most proud of "the Filipino adaptability and resilience" as realized during debonis "sang our socks off." Celdran organizes tours around the city with a view of "changing the way you see Manila, one step at a time."

Among one of his tours makes you appreciate what the metropolis can offer in terms of history and sights. Tours include that of intramuros, the historic walled city, the architectural "kostka tour" and the window shopping Ilaw market tour at Quiapo/Ilaw Binondo, any day except Monday. He may be reached at The Living Room, Unit 2H, North Syquia Apartments, 1080 Alfonso Mendoza, Sta. Cruz, Manila, phone 404-4040, (0920) 889-2121, e-mail carlos@carlosceldran.com, that www.carlosceldran.com.

Michael Williams, theater director and actor-names shared by us a good quality of the Filipino. "The Pinoy theme is so diverse and more importantly, global. Please can integrate seamlessly and convert any society. The Pinoy is a marvel of versatility and talent."

Williams recently founded a Pinoy company called Theater Tower. Dentist-actor is now staging The Princess and The Red Cats, a light-hearted magical tale based on the the traditional Chinese version of the Brothers Grimm classic at 3 p.m., on Sep. 16, at the theater of the Greenbelt Garden, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa. Michael Williams directs this original musical. Call 891-8000 for tickets. For more details, phone 687-3930, 506-6989, (0921) 805-5243, (0916) 843-5976, email info@theatertower.com or visit www.theatertower.com.

For a Filipino who's now based abroad, Liz Corridor says their heritage is what makes Filipinos different. "Filipinos have an amazing outlook life and attitude — basically, Malaya and Chinese influenced by the Spanish and Americans over the years. What I most love about the Filipino is their innate talent for music, service and excellent hospitality. It is an art to take mind. They're honored here all the other nationalities and putting their Filipino master talent. Eric what makes them so unique and absolutely beautiful. Jess is their hello," says international DJ, manager based in the Netherlands. She is manager to one of the world's top DJs, Armin Corridor-Jesse Amy's producer, too.

Before making his Europe, Jay Corridor was an avid aficionado of local DJs scene. At SUPERSET at the M Cafe every Thursday, a one of a kind talent, and the Corridor set can be spotted unwinding out the decks at Malcolm Club behind with Bohemians. Expect new jazz tracks, floor-shaking drum breaks with organ grooves, smashy guitars, exceptional kicks and mutant breaks and more. Museum Cafe, is at 5/F Greenbelt 4, Makati Ave. cor. Paseo De Roxas, Barangay Carlos Makati City, phone 757-0000.

Charlie Laurel, filmmaker, says the Filipino's excellence and perseverance are what makes him stick.

For a glimpse of this local talent in film-making, attend Cinema Independent Film Program, where screens collected indie works of local filmmakers for free every month. The screening at Ben Nimo, which is followed by an open forum and workshops, happens on the 3rd of the Temple Room(s) 4E, 60 Kitchener Ma Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC, phone 480-1010. For details, contact Jose Nimo or Amabelle Asuncion at (0920) 480-3966, (0921) 974-8186 or email boardnimo@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/cinema.cinema.com.ph.

Week years celebrations for Swiss events

Sept. 27: Join the Swiss Embassy Manila Association Annual Golf Tournament at the Villa Elena Golf Club, a fund-raising event to help fund social projects for Swiss communities schools in Baguio City, Bicol and Kawayan, Mindanao. The price is a round trip ticket to Europe courtesy of Etihad Airways. Tournament fee is P3,000 for members and P5,000 for non-members, inclusive of green fee, golf cart, lunch, raffle ticket and giveaway items. Contact Maggie or Eveth at the secretariat, Mornow Office at 8545504 or 8561-6000/888.

For more information on events, check out our new blog! For 7 years we point up your free copy of 24/7 Metro Manila Nightlife at your favorite nearby bars and restaurants. Submit your schedules before Wednesday on events.blogs24-7.com and mag24-7@yahoo.com for inclusion in the column.

Super LIFESTYLE

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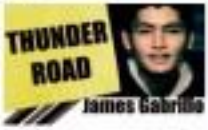
Underground film deals with piracy like never before

Sydney filmmaker Carlo Ledesma to release his first full-length feature worldwide, online, for free

IT IS pioneering, groundbreaking—and bold.

Upcoming horror film "The Tunnel" dares to contradict the industry's orthodox ways and wisdom.

Recognizing the effects of piracy on filmmaking, its producers Isaac Tolstoshi and Aidan Gurvey of Distorted Media decided that instead of colluding hand-in-against (illegal peer-to-peer networks, they'd work with them.



"On Torrents' Labs 2010," the film's poster reads.

"The Tunnel" will be distributed via bit Torrent networks, the weapon of choice for internet movie pirates.

"The Internet was meant to be a tool to liberate us," says Harvey. "Now we are wasting millions in lawsuits and labelling an entire generation criminals. It seems there has to be another way forward."

So, what's the game plan?

A 90-minute film consists of more or less 120,000 individual frames. "The Tunnel" is trying to raise the cash budget of $150,000 by selling each of the frames for $1. Thrift market? Only the entire World Wide Web.

Due for release later this year, "The Tunnel" follows a news film crew as they journey into Sydney's underground tunnels looking for a story, until the story starts hunting them.

The producers have tapped Filipino filmmaker Carlo Ledesma, based in Sydney, to direct the movie. Many may recognize Ledesma as senior producer and host of award-winning sports show "Gameplan." He moved to Sydney in '04 to pursue a master's degree in film.

Three years ago, his short film "The Haircut" received the Most Movie Channel award for Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival.

Ledesma also shot and directed a well-received feature-length documentary "My Game," which explored the Philippines' intimate passion for basketball.

Ledesma talked to Super about his latest project.

What prompted you and your producers to do an unconventional funding process?

All together we have done short films, documentaries, and TV shows, and have been wanting to make the leap into features. Call us impatient and probably naive, but we felt that if we waited around for traditional funding, it would never happen, so we just decided to go for it.

The decision to release our film for free on Torrents was a surprisingly easy decision to make. We have a better chance of our film being seen by more people online than if we were to go the traditional theatre/DVD route.

That's our prime intention—to get watched and to get noticed.

How has the response from the industry players been like?

Ironically enough, as soon as we announced that we were bypassing the traditional distribution method and releasing our film for free, we actually began getting calls from distributors saying they were keen to have a look at our film and possibly purchase the rights.

Talk about reverse psychology—you tell someone they're not needed and then they come to you anyway.

Maybe this is something all indie filmmakers should be doing. The deals have been struck yet, but regardless, we still plan to go ahead and release the film on Torrents once it's finished. It promises to entertain.

What made you say yes to the project?

I liked the basic premise of the film, and the chance to put a different spin to the 'found footage' horror sub-genre excited me.

(HOROSCOPE) E3

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A-LIPAN — By JOEL ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — By Nel Garcia

DICK TRACY

LOKOMOKOTS — By ELIZABETH CHONGLO

JAMES BOND

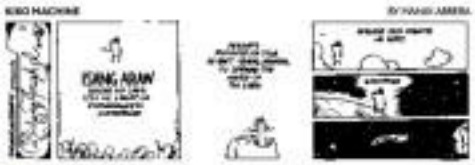
DIVINE COMEDY — By STEVEN PABUALAN

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

TULOKBIX — By MARK COLL

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

KISO MACHINE — By MANDI AMERA



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

By FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku

			9					
		7	8			2		
	5			1			7	
7	6		3		1			
		8				1		
			2		4		9	8
	3			7			4	
		2			8	3		
					6			

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TAKE Rico on the set of "The Tunnel"

HOCUS FOCUS. The director stands his ground with production VP cohorts Steve Stark

Underground film deals with piracy like never before

PITCH DARK. Popular Australian actor Andy Rodoreda is part of the cast

AWARD ON. "The Tunnel" director Carlo Ledesma's feature film debut

From page E1

IC "The Tunnel" we got to see who actually lives, based on interviews with the survivors several years later.

I was frothing at the mouth to work on a feature-length film and I couldn't think of a better bunch of people to do it with than Enzo, John, and the rest of the crew.

When you find collaborators you enjoy working with you hold on to them for dear life, because chances are they'll be the ones running side by side with you as your career gains traction.

What excites me the most is that "The Tunnel" is just the first step in a very detailed, elaborate plan. We have quite a few more film ideas up our sleeves and hopefully as the years go, we will have enough clout to get them made.

How did you come across the story concerning the underground tunnels beneath the St. James station? Talk about the process of creating your fictional plot line based on a factual situation.

It just baffles me that there hasn't been a film made about Manila's underground tunnels. Well, there have been, but they've been mostly documentaries and news reports. When you go down there and see the depth, the scope, the sheer vastness of the tunnels, your mind just runs off and starts thinking about what could be in the far end where the light doesn't reach.

So, we decided to put something in that dark, creepy place.

Are you shooting in the actual tunnels?

There is in fact, an actual lake underneath St. James train station. Over the years it's collected water from above and is about a kilometer long and a meter deep. We wanted to film in the actual lake but were barred from doing so because of the amount of toxins in the water—mercury, lead, lots of sewage. But exactly the last mile to dunk your actors in, although I'm sure they would have become very, very wonderfully connected.

Toxic lake aside, we did get access to some incredible locations—some World War II bunkers, abandoned train stations, and a few spots where supposedly bits of "The Manila" were filmed. That's right, we'll gladly take those Patchworld hand-me-downs.

Pic: see some behind-the-scenes images on the film's website. What's the current status of production?

As of this month, we are about 80% done, with some key scenes yet to be filmed. We've got a great strand of facts, twists and the amazing thing is that 80% of the work they will put in, the audience won't even notice. Subtle things such as water ripples, crossing bridges, passing trains. We're definitely gunning for a lens-to-screen approach.

This is your feature film debut. What's the biggest challenge you've had to deal with?

The biggest challenge is the same as any low-budget horror—finding the money to complete the film. We've received an incredible amount of support from people who've purchased digital frames off our website, but aside this being a feature, we still need much more. The saying about more bang for your buck being a day late and a dollar short" is absolutely true.

But on the more true, I'm loving the challenge. The crew and I seem to wear the 'poverty' like some badge of pride because we see it as paying our dues.

With no money comes more imaginative and I've had to think up of clever ways to get around a scene that ordinarily would take thousands of dollars to shoot, but with a simple camera angle here, a little sound design there, boom, we have a scene.

And what do you consider to be the most satisfying part of all this?

Call me weird, but the most satisfying part is the entire process of it all. I love the blissful stress that comes with making a film. I never feel satisfied on set though, I always go home thinking I should have done one more take, one more setup.

The satisfaction comes when you watch the rushes the next day and realize, okay, we've got it in the can. Or shall we say somewhere, to the hard drive.

Any projects lined up after "The Tunnel"?

I'm working on a graphic novel at the moment, and I'm planning to release it in the same crowd-funding way we've released "The Tunnel."

It was originally meant for a film script but the sheer scope of it is just too large to get green-lit off the basis of pages. So I've decided to adapt it as a graphic novel first to plant some visuals on top of the written material.

Are you planning to make a film in the Philippines?

I would absolutely jump at the chance to direct a feature back there. While Australia is my adopted country, the Philippines will always be home. I would love to do a full-on balls-to-the-wall action film there. Are there still bang seats?

Last I saw it was mostly low-team projects with '80's songs in the titles.

Support Luzviminda by spreading the word and taking part in the 1,000 Project. Visit www.heroesandmovies.net to track the film's progress, plus details on how to own a frame, a second (28 frames), a minute (1,500 frames), or even more from the actual movie. Feel free to send me unfilmed the finished film when it's released.

A very short interview with John Mayer

Six days to go—are you ready for the concert?

LIKE most John Mayer fans out there, we are counting the days until the John Mayer concert on Oct. 1. And apparently, we're not the only ones. In this very short interview, the musician talks about his secret talent, the perfect John Mayer gig and why he's looking forward to the Philippines.

What do you miss most when you go on tour?

A great home cooked meal, my family. I miss my bed the most.

Can you tell us a secret fans don't know about you? Do you have a secret talent?

Volunteering. I just love to see an array of dust and bits of paper...go from being there to disappearing with my stroke.

You collaborate extensively with other artists including those outside of your genre like hip-hop. Not too many artists take this risk but you are very consistently successful. Why?

It's not inside out there right now. That's why, to me, hip-hop is where rock used to be."

Describe the perfect John Mayer gig.

No favorites. I try to enjoy as much as I can no matter where I go. I do have one that right my list though: A rehearsal in a basement, performing next to Sheryl Crow.

What are you looking forward to in the Philippines, other than your show?

Looking forward to meeting the fans. I do everything for my fans. I have also heard from other artists who have been there how great of an audience the Filipinos are. I can definitely very excited. I love of us bond there are great musicians out there, beautiful women and nice beaches.

Will you be unveiling new material at the show?

You'll have to watch the show and find out on your own. I'll see you all soon!

Catch John Mayer live at the Mall of Asia Concert Grounds on Friday, Oct. 1. *John Mayer is brought to you by Metro-CineFilm.com and Channel V and Fortune Productions. For tickets, call 09XXXXX or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.*

How much . . .

From page E4

high Twitter's score. Twitchange.com section, you can be Twitter friends with your favorite celebrity—for a hefty price.

Twitter, with celebrities using the service, have collaborated in a charity auction. Fans can bid on their favorite celebrity's "mobile package," the basic of which includes being (followed) by him/her as "mutual" online/offline for 90 days, getting your name mentioned in a tweet, and being re-tweeted by them.

Other celebs listen in more freebies. Eva Longoria (Desperate Housewives) offers signed Desperate Housewives merchandise and video tweets, Chuck's Zachary Levi includes a "superfriends extra ("Either drive with your truly? Cameo on the show? Marriage proposal? The world may never know."), and even Jessica Simpson's hairstylist guarantees "the best hair makeover" when you bid on him.

Other notable celebrities include Shaquille O'Neal, Neil Gaiman, Perez Hilton, Adam Levine, Alicia Keys, Ryan Seacrest, Jon Bon Jovi, Ian Somerhalder.

The auction started Sept. 13 and ends today. As of press time, BBC president Dana White has the highest bid with his full Twitter package already set at $33,600 (approximately P967,463.96)—possibly the most expensive 140 character conversation ever will ever have.

If you've recently come across a windfall or you're success in the Trump culture, head over to Twitchange.com and bid on your favorite celebrity. All proceeds go to Hunting The Shrimp Center in Haiti, a facility that houses children in the earthquake's aftermath.

This may be your big chance to become friends with your favorite celebrity, but it won't come cheap.

GOOD

BETTER

BEST

It's the sprout say, he'll hear his skin so many different times to so many different ways.

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Twitchange.com

How much are you willing to spend to be noticed by your favorite star?

By Tatin Tung
Contributor

IVIDIS TWITTER! ang relatively new kan famous Hollywood celebrities ware getting hooked on it. The worldwide craze of Twitter's network allowed them to be some more personal and yet them reply to your tweets, if you were lucky enough.

My friends with a Hollywood celeb was when, @mrskutcher (Demi Moore) replied to me when I asked her about her anniversary especially.

Now, celebs noticed a popularity and millions of users, celebrities have become less personal and less likely to talk to you anymore.

Still, some hardcore fans refuse to be daunted by the trials and tirelessly monitor the ones to tweets, hoping to get noticed.

SEE TWEET E3

ABS-CBN ever favorite Twitter celebrity and have their children you would notice you in a tweet.

The new iPods: Worth the upgrade?

By Tatin Tung

iPod Shuffle

The old: In an effort to make the Shuffle as minuscule as possible, Apple did away with the hardware buttons and built in a remote to the supplied earbuds, relying heavily on its VoiceOver technology to let you know which song was playing.

The new: Amid negative reviews and consumer complaints, Steve and Co. decided that while size does matter, buttons are more important. The latest generation iPod Shuffle brings back the standard multi-directional buttons. To keep the device small—it's still those 2GB it's version, the sides were shaved off to make for a more squarish clip-on player. At P2,490, it is Apple's most affordable iPod in the lineup with 2GB (roughly 500 songs) and touted as the world's smallest iPod.

If you have a huge music library but like spontaneity versus lugging around your entire collection, this Shuffle may be perfect for you. It's unobtrusive enough to clip on your pocket or underwear's edges as a companion and the addition of buttons make it easier to control again.

While VoiceOver has been a big help giving access to those with disabilities, I've never liked it even since I freaked out over a whispering ghost in the car which turned out to be the iPod's VoiceOver activating itself with every bump in the road.

Upgrade or skip? Upgrade

iPod Touch

The old: Last year's iPod Touch retained the device features since its inception with only a few minor upgrades—faster hardware, pacing it at par speed-wise with its cousin the iPhone 3GS and higher memory capacity coming in 32GB and 64GB.

The new: Just like the iPhone, the iPod Touch was given a major overhaul. Thinner with longer battery life, it has also added the multi-awaited camera both front and rear. The new generation also includes the retina display introduced in iPhone 4 and of course, iOS 4 which allows multi-tasking and Face Time, a Wi-Fi enabled video conferencing feature between the latest iPods and iPhones.

While the camera quality is nowhere near that of the iPhone 4's, it's good enough for on-the-go captures.

This device is ideal for mobile bloggers when partnered with a portable bread board (makers like Cheke's Myll review on for people in long-distance relationships (just please use headphones and exercise discretion when face Timing or at Starbucks).

Upgrade or skip? Definitely upgrade.

Which iPod is for you? Take the quiz to find out:

1. I have the attention span of a
   a. fly
   b. enemy on crack
   c. 4-year-old discovering the toy for the first time.
2. I can music to
   a. tune out others so I can concentrate
   b. multitask one
   c. keep me company all the time.
3. I like my devices
   a. multi-purpose
   b. lightweight but handy
   c. dedicated – one purpose for each
4. When it comes to size, I like it
   a. big
   b. tiny
   c. adorably awesome
5. My ideal mate
   a. is my best friend
   b. loves the outdoors
   c. is spontaneous

Mostly A's

You get bored easily and need different kinds of stimulation to hold your attention span. Bring an iPod Touch as your companion to stave off boredom. You can video chat with friends, kick their butt in a mean game of Scrabble or listen to your music or watch TV shows.

Mostly B's

You're active and you want a music player that can keep up with your pumping feet and boundless energy. Take along the iPod Nano and let your playlists push you to break your own records while monitoring your progress.

Mostly C's

Your passion for music and desire to hear something different everyday make you and the Shuffle a match made in gadget heaven.

iPod Nano

The old: The 5th generation iPod was Apple's attempt to capture the YouTube youth and take a bite out of plug and play video recorders like Flip & its competitors. It was the first Nano to integrate a video recorder into its paper-thin body. The screen was also stretched to provide better video playback...a built-in speaker was added and a pedometer for the fitness-conscious.

The new: Deviating from the Nano's recognized rectangular form, the latest iteration of this iPod mixes the iPod's square 1x1 inch touch-screen interface—Apple's first time to bring its highly responsive touch technology to the smaller iPods. The new model also includes a clip similar to the Shuffle's design, a built-in FM radio with live pause, pedometer and Nike + iPod.

Oddly missing is video playback which has been present in the iPod Nano since its third version. It may have been sacrificed to retain the Nano's new size or it may have been deliberately left out as iPod Touch's obvious target in the runaway gym hoof with the new adjustments.

Upgrade or skip? Upgrade if you spend half your time in the gym; skip if you have the old iPod Nano 14th or 5th.

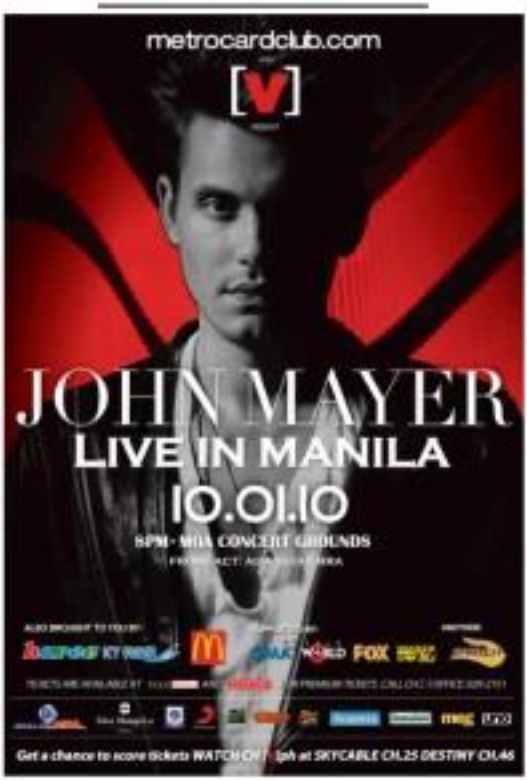
Actress Jodi Sta. Maria-Lacson is LG's Ecomom

LG's EcoMom Ambassador campaigns for a healthier lifestyle

Did you know that bacteria in our mouth multiply while we sleep? That is why most people wake up with "morning breath," which is a sign of bacteria build up... End your "morning breath" problems by using Bounce Night Mint. Bounce Night Mint has Triclosan that effectively kills and prevents the build up of bad breath-causing bacteria, giving your mouth that thorough cleaning even while you sleep!

Bounce Night Mint also has Silica that works overnight to remove stains and whiten teeth! To top it all off, Bounce Night Mint contains Chamomile extract, which helps in relieving stress and inducing calmness so you wake up to a fresher day! So what are you waiting for? Get into the groove of fresher morning breath with Bounce Night Mint!

Bounce Night Mint works...overnight! Available in 90g tubes in your favorite supermarket, grocery or drugstore.



Editor Tobbie S. Philandez Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

UAAP FINALS SPECIAL

UAAP Finals: Tams, Eagles pumped up

IT'S GOING to be a close and tough battle for the UAAP men's basketball crown when Ateneo and Far Eastern U, who have combined to win six of the first 10 titles in the new millennium, collide for the championship of Season 76. The Tamaraws have the deeper bench, but the Eagles bring with them to the Finals the experience of back-to-back titles, making the best-of-three series too tough to call.

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

LONG BEFORE the curtains were lifted off the 73rd season of the UAAP, this showdown for the title had been predicted.

Defending champion Ateneo, Powerhouse Far Eastern U. Both squads did a good job of fulfilling their destiny.

In a campaign littered with upsets and breakaches, the Blue Eagles and the Tamaraws steamlined their routes to a championship showdown that has nobody gasping in surprise.

"We'll let you decide which the favorite and who's the underdog," Ateneo head coach Norman Black told reporters during a sports forum recently. "We'll just go out there and we'll be fighting."

Strong words, but his Eagles will have an even stronger foe, one that likes to do away with outside hype and instead flaunt an offensive stance armed earlier than was unmatched all season long.

"We'll just do our best," said FEU assistant Olsen Caparas.

Big names

The big names on both sides of the court are all ready.

Ateneo will let Kiefer Ravena lead the way, along with Kirk Long, Emmanuel Mendoza, Justin Chua, Ryan Buenafe and Nico Salva.

For the Tamaraws, league MVP KR Garcia and top rookie Terrence Romeo will provide the young blood to a roster infused with veterans Bell Cervantes, Aldrech Ramos, JR Cawaling, Pipo Reymundo, Paul Lorenzo and Jess Rosario.

On paper, the Tamaraws seem to have the edge. Not only have Garcia and Romeo bagged the top two individual awards this season, but guys like Ramos and Cawaling have honed their games in international stints with the Smart Gilas Pilipinas basketball squad.

But there is something about the 35-and-Out make-it-or-miss-it format.

The final, packed arena filled with relentless cheers/booing and shouting. The intense pressure of a championship series. All these need one unyielding factor: Experience.

And that is something Ateneo is loaded with.

The Eagles have 11 players who have played in at least one UAAP Finals before. For all their veteran names, the Tamaraws have none.

"They are not as talented as the previous years but they got a lot of experience," said Alaska playmaker LA Tenorio, the Hon Hotta Conference Finals MVP who anchored the Ateneo squad that won in 2002 and lost in FEU the following year.

Contrasting styles

The championship duel features a battle of contrasting styles. And this should make things even more interesting.

The Tamaraws are the best offensive team in the UAAP averaging 73 points per game on 43.3 percent shooting from the field.

The Eagles, coached by one of the finest defensive leaders who ever played in the PBA, are the best stopper in the UAAP, yielding only 62.4 points per game and allowing teams to shoot a paltry 34 percent.

So it isn't hard to predict the game plans of both squads.

For the defending champions, the key will be to contain the FEU offense that has found firepower from a lot of standouts.

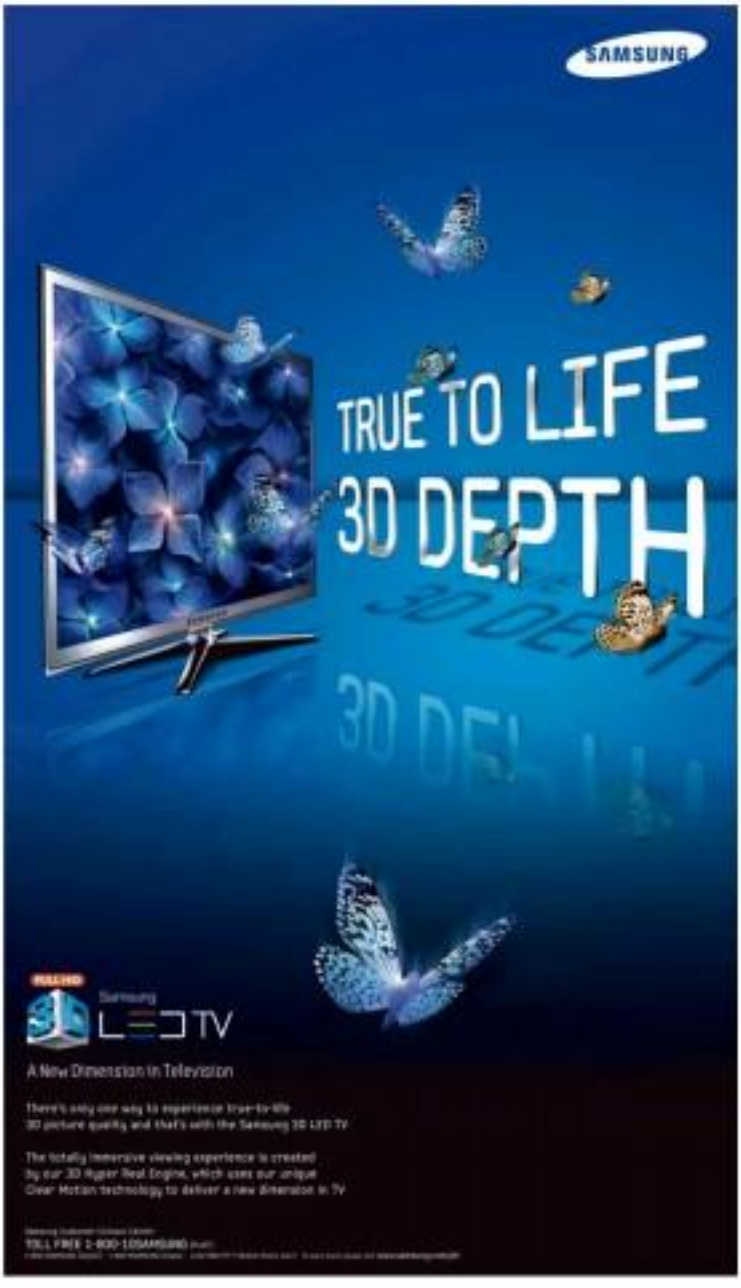
It's the Tams' two leaders in Ardonnes and La Salle, FEU scored only 63 and 66 points, respectively or an average of 64.5 points while shooting 43% from the field.

For the Tamaraws, they'll have to find a way to break the defensive wall worse the Eagles are famous for.

The Blue Eagles only allowed opponents to score over 70 points four times, and in each of those instances, the Eagles lost to FEU (72-69 and 74-71). The other two times, Ateneo almost lost to UE (80-73) and UST (83-77).

As important as these numbers may be, all these will be thrown out the window if the strategies go the distance. There, the title could be decided by just one factor.

"Whatever is the hungrier team is going to win it," said former FEU star Arwind Santos. **With a report from Lawrence Mongaya/ Inquirer Visayas**



A king searches for his crown

RR Garcia is the UAAP's best player, and a championship will validate that

By Jasmine N. Payo

HIS NAME rarely cropped up in the list of players to watch this season.

But Ryan Rosse "RR" Garcia—the plucky guard playing only his second UAAP season—surprisingly emerged as the leader of a Far Eastern University squad stocked with veterans.

FEU coach Glenn Capacio quickly identified Garcia as "target," just two games after his budding 5-foot-10 star logged in an average of 21.5 points in the Tamaraws' first back-to-back victories.

"In his mind, I really feel confidence every time he's on court," said Capacio. "He's like a coach inside the court. He can carry the team."

MVP

Garcia amassed 19.2 statistical points after averaging a league-best 16.0 points, 3.4 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.0 steal at the end of the 14-game eliminations round and never ran an eggstra (the Most Valuable Player award) of Season 73.

It's a feat even made more impressive as Garcia at the first guard in 23 seasons to top the top individual plum in men's basketball.

But the 20-year-old Garcia would rather put his team first.

"What's more important is our goal to win the championship," he said.

Marked man

Capacio expects Garcia to bring his splendid all-around game anew to the championship series.

"Now that the pressure of winning the MVP is over, we expect RR to play even better," said Capacio.

Garcia, though, expects a tougher time in the Tamaraws' best-of-three championship series against back-to-back champion Ateneo Blue Eagles.

"I know that I'm the marked man and their defense will be focused on me," said Garcia. "I'll just help my teammates whatever way I can."

But Garcia, a tad shy off court, surprisingly reveals a bit of emotion.

"I also feel the pressure because it's my first time in the Finals," said Garcia, who hails from Zamboanga City.

Ateneo coach Nielsen Black, though, hardly expects to shackle Garcia.

"I will (a) everybody," Black said on his defensive game plan on Garcia.

"All the guards will probably have a shot at it. Whenever does the best job will be assigned. It's a difficult task. He's their go-to guy."

"I don't expect to stop RR," admitted Black. "I don't think that's going to happen. He takes a lot of attempts. They really look for him on offense. We just have to play good overall defense if we want to win."

Garcia is just the second guard in two decades to clinch the MVP title since former FEU ace Johnny Abarrientos reigned in 1991.

James Yap won in 2003 as a University of the East forward before shifting to the guard position in the pro league.

"He makes his teammates better," said Capacio. "We see, he is the best guard in college basketball today."

Tight race

Garcia topped the tight statistical race by less than a point as Hardwood Unisexy's Gamewinners owner Emmanuel Mbe, the league's superbomber, earned 16 SPI (13.4 points, 11.7 boards, 1.2 blocks).

The former RP Youth Team standout also beat out other top performers including teammate and the league's top distributor Ahbrett Bamos (38.7 SPI: 11.3 points, 8.3 rebounds, 2.1 blocks) and the University of the East duo of Paul Lee (37.7 SPI: 18.9 points, 6.5 boards, 4.6 assists, 2.0 steals) and Ken Ardion (30.6: 10 SPI: 11.4 points, third rebounds: 9.8, 1.4 blocks).

"It's great to be in the Finals," said Garcia.

"It's a good match for us because we're going up against the defending champion. We'll just do our best."

The Tamaraws, though, aren't just up against the defending champions, because as they said, this holds a year of winning silver the heartaches of past seasons.

And Garcia will be in the middle of that quest for redemption.

AFTER winning the MVP trophy and the respect of his peers, there's only one thing left to complete RR Garcia's season.

What went before

DEFENDING CHAMPION Ateneo and FEU entered parks twice during the eliminations round of UAAP 73. Garcia's a look-back at those meetings, both won by the Tamaraws.

FIRST ROUND

July 11, 2018 (Ateneo's Coliseum)

FEU 75, Ateneo 69 (halftime: 35-38)

Key statistics: Rebounds: FEU 46, Ateneo 33)

Player of the game: RR Garcia—25 points (7 in the fourth quarter), 3 rebounds, 2 assists

SECOND ROUND

September 15, 2018 (Ateneo's Coliseum)

FEU 74, Ateneo 72 (halftime: 32-33)

Key statistics: 3-point shooting (FEU 73 percent, Ateneo 28 percent)

Player of the game: Terrence Romeo—23 points (13 in the second half), 10 rebounds

Compiled by Lorenzo Z. Mangaoil

Jollibee and Coca-Cola pump up UAAP Season 73 with limited edition tumblers

The energy and excitement among students and fans in the 73rd UAAP season have reached fever pitch with the much-awaited clash for the championship. Bringing on the hardest and most creative school cheers and paraphernalia, the youth's zest and energy fill even the biggest arenas in Manila. Amplifying such strong display of school spirit, two of the biggest brands that promote happiness and positivity have teamed up once again to raise the level of excitement in the UAAP to a whole new level.

Coming from the success of the UAAP Collectible Bottles promo last year, Jollibee, the country's number one fast-food chain, and Coca-Cola, the country's number one beverage brand bring an extra dose of youthful fun to the country's top collegiate sports tournament with the Limited Edition UAAP Tumblers. The eight specially designed tumblers vividly capture the unique character and colors of the contending universities.

Students and fans alike can enjoy any of their favorite Jollibee Burger value meal and Double Go Large Bida! Jolly Crispy Fries and Coca-Cola to get a collectible tumbler for free! You can bring these tumblers in your team's game to show your support for your alma mater and time a treat to every victorious moment. Whether it's the all-time favorite Peach Tea with Cheese or Yum with TLC, or the Champ, a yummy treat coupled with the Limited Edition UAAP Tumblers will surely relieve every cheer.

Only Jollibee and Coca-Cola lets you display that school pride and allows you to be part of the exciting UAAP season. So hurry and get your Limited Edition UAAP Tumblers in all Jollibee stores in Metro Manila and selected provincial stores. The Coca-Cola – Jollibee Limited Edition UAAP Tumblers are available for dine-in, take-out, delivery and drive-thru from September 10 to 30 only.

Key UAAP statistics

Far Eastern University Tamaraws

Eliminations record: 11-3 (1st); 1st round: 7-0, Second round: 5-3

Final Four: Defeated No. 4 La Salle, 84-79, in overtime

Overtime record: 2-0 (La Salle 84-80, 2 OT; University of the East, 83-77 OT; La Salle in Final Four, 69-66 OT)

In games decided by four points or less: 4-1

Key players: RR Garcia (16.4 ppg, 38% 3 pt. FGs, 3.7 rpg, 2.6 apg), Aldrech Ramos (13.1 ppg, 38.3 % FGs, 8.4 rpg, 2 bpg), Bol Gesmundo (10.8 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 2.6 apg), Terrence Romeo (8.7 ppg, 50% 3 pt. FGs, 2.9 rpg, 2.2 apg), Pipo Hontiveros (8.4 ppg, 5.6 rpg)

CHAMPIONS

Head coach: Olivia Caperla (9th year, 43-19*) *including playoffs

Number of men's championships: 19 (2002, 2004, 2005, 1997, 1992, 1991, 1983, 1981, 1986, 1979, 1978, 1973, 1972, 1961, 1956, 1950, 1947, 1939, 1938)

Ateneo Blue Eagles

Eliminations record: 10-4 (2nd)

First round: 5-2, Second round: 5-2

Final four: Defeated No. 3 Adamson, 68-55

Overtime record: None

In games decided by four points or less: 3-4

Key players: Eric Salamat (11 ppg, 2.7 apg, 4.2 rpg, 1.8 spg), Thirdy Ravena (9.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg), Kiefer Ravena (9.5 ppg, 38% 3 PT. FGs, 4.1 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.5 spg), Jeremy Matthew (8.8 ppg, 42% FGs, 3.3 rpg), Jessie Chua (8.6 ppg, 48% FGs, 3.9 rpg, 1.4 bpg), Kiyas Bacaude (7.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 0.8 spg)

Head coach: Nielsen Black (6th year, 77-24*)

*including playoff matches

Number of men's championships: 5 (2000, 2008, 2002, 1988, 1987)

Lorenzo Mangaoil, Court Buzz

Third time's a charm or historic 20?

THE FAR Eastern University Tamaraws hope to be in a celebratory mood after the Finals, just as they were in 2003.

By Jasmine W. Paye

ILUSTRADO and Simmons

That's how it will be for the team that hosts this season's trophies.

A championship and a spot in the record books are at stake for both Far Eastern University's (and Simons) when the two top seeds fight for the 73rd UAAP men's basketball crown.

If one more hurdle can fill up FEU's already decorated gym, the Tamaraws will emerge as the most successful varsity squad in the league with a record of 20 basketball titles.

"We know it won't be easy," said FEU coach Glenn Capacio. "We have to work hard for it. We have to give all our heart in this championship series."

The Tamaraws, one of the four preserving teams in the league, are currently tied on top with the University of Santo Tomas Tigers with 19 titles.

A third straight championship will be historic as well for the Blue Eagles as the last will mark Ateneo's first three-peat since joining the league in 1978.

"I don't have a problem with the focus and concentration of the players because we have the experience, we've been here before, we know how it feels like," said Ateneo coach Norman Black.

Another title run will put the Blue Eagles among the ranks of FEU, UST, La Salle and University of the East as the only teams to dominate the league for at least three consecutive seasons.

The Tamaraws, who ended a two-year drought last season, are tipped as the slight favorite in the series predicted to go the distance.

The Tamaraws' bodied center—led by Most Valuable Player RR Garcia, veterans Aldrech Ramos and Rich Gecolea and rookie of the Year Terrence Romeo—also drew comparisons from the FEU squad that bagged the 2005 crown.

But as much as three seasons may separate the 2005 squad's successful run, Capacio points out three differences.

"It's hard to compare," said Capacio. "The 2005 squad was more balanced with Arvind Tumbo and Mark Yap. Before 2005, they'd been in the Finals and they also won the championship in 2003. The 2005 team has more experience, while this is our first Finals."

And Black knows how a team's change-up experience factors as a tight series.

"Majority of the players in my team right now were here in 2008," said Black.

"We know that feeling of trying to break through, of trying to win that first championship. We're evidences of it. But we also have our motivation—we're trying to win our third straight crown. We're just as hungry as they are."

Zeroing in on the UAAP finalists

By Lorenzo Mangubat
Contributor

YOU'RE seated beside the coolest guy/girl you've ever seen inside a throbbing Araneta Coliseum just before the game starts and you desperately notice to start a conversation with him/her.

But your variety boost is pounding several beats per minute as it is and your brain can't come up with a coherent sentence.

Then you notice he/she is a basketball addict and you figure, why not draw the target of your affections that you're as much of a basketball nut yourself?

Here are a few facts and figures to get you started.

2005

Last year that FEU met in the Finals (won over La Salle, 2-0).

2003

Last time that FEU and Ateneo met in the Finals (FEU won, 2-0).

19

Number of UAAP men's seniors basketball titles won by FEU (tied for 1st with UST).

BLACK

12

Number of times out of 18 instances (or 75%) since 1994 that Game 1 winner has gone on to win title.

11

Number of current Ateneo players who have won at least one UAAP championship.

9

Most number of consecutive Finals appearances by a school since the league adopted the Final Four format in 1999 (La Salle: 1999-2007).

8

Number of times out of 16 instances (or 50%) since 1994 that the best-of-three championship series has gone the distance.

5

Number of UAAP men's seniors basketball titles won by Ateneo (5th consecutive).

4

Number of Finals appearances by Ateneo coach Norman Black (2003, 2005, 2006 and 2009).

3

Number of consecutive Finals appearances by Ateneo.

A trip down memory lane

Former Eagles, Tams reminisce old showdown

By Mark Giongco and Colmet Flores
Reporter/Intern

THE ANTICIPATED nip-and-tuck finals clash between three-peat seeking Ateneo and title favorite Far Eastern U unfurls today, fetching memories of a not so distant past, when a different generation of Blue Eagles and Tamaraws battled for college basketball's most prestigious diadem.

In season 66, the Blue Eagles, paced by fiery guard LA Tenorio and the rest of Ateneo's 2002 champion squad, were gunning for back-to-back wins when they clawed straight into Arwind Santos and the Tamaraws, who were actually at the start of their reign.

But Tenorio, who is now an integral part of Alaska in the Philippine Basketball Association, is pretty confident that the current showdown between Ateneo and Far Eastern U won't be an exact copy of that previous battle, where Santos and his fellow Tamaraws marauded the Eagles in a sweep of the Finals.

Game 3

This time, at least, "it will reach Game 3," said Tenorio.

"I hope Ateneo wins, but I really don't know what to expect," he admitted.

Dennis Miranda, the guy Tenorio went head-to-head with in a classic backcourt duel, also expects the series to reach a winner-take-all, but thinks his alma mater has what it takes to win.

"No team has the clinch edge," said Miranda, who's also in the pro league now with San Miguel.

"Ateneo has veterans also like Ibias (Ian) Mondoy, (Eric) Salamat and (Ryan) Buenafe. It will come down to which team's hungrier."

"But I pick FEU to throw games."

Momentum

Santos, now a stalwart with San Miguel Beer, enjoying the same role he had as a Tamaraws, had a more chummier confidence. If you really tie scenarios through, you'll realize it favors his school, naturally.

"It's hard to predict, but if FEU takes Game 1, it will be a sweep," said Santos. "If a coaches' frame it, the team that won Game 2 will have the momentum."

"I believe FEU has the talent, but they also need to play with the heart of a champion from start to finish. FEU should(n't) be intimidated, they should dictate the pace."

Both teams need FEU to defend atop the heap in 2003 with identical 13-1 slates, but Tenorio felt the Tamaraws had a better team than their back then.

"FEU really had monster players that time, and Ateneo was just starting with its fundamental program," said Tenorio, who was the show for the Blue Eagles along with two-time UAAP MVP Rich Alvarez, the sweet-shooting duo of Larry Drilon and Peejay Gonzales.

The 2003 Tamaraws squad also did have a lot of talent, including the likes of Santos, Mike Ilustre, Jeff Chan and Mark Isip.

Peaked in finals

"During the 2003 season, we were very patient and at the same time our outside shots were going in so we gained confidence," said Santos.

"We sort of peaked in the Finals, that's why the champs-sweep games were all blowout wins," added Miranda. "We took a double-digit lead right in the first quarter and that helped our confidence. We just clicked."

But Tenorio thinks Ateneo's 2010 squad is more loaded than the 2003 version, with gunners like Eric Salamat, Rich Long, Emman Monfort and Ryan Buenafe leading the pack.

This despite the Blue Eagles finishing with a 10-4 record, interestingly, half of Ateneo's losses came against FEU, the only team the Eagles failed to conquer in the elimination rounds.

But Tenorio thinks that Ateneo's edge this season is its experience from previous championships, which that can-quick guard feels is enough fuel for yet another title run.

"They are not as talented as the previous years but they got a lot of experience from Norman Black," Tenorio said.

Veteran-laden

This year's Tamaraws, though veteran-laden, aren't as experienced. FEU doesn't have a tangle player in its roster that has experienced the intense pressure of being in the Finals.

Sir Tenorio believes that some game time, Ateneo will still have to pull some serious strings in order to topple the Tamaraws.

"They really have to find a way to beat FEU," said Tenorio.

With a backcourt led by MVP Bli Garcia and top rookie Terrence Romeo—along with a plethora of big men and wing players—the Tamaraws have proven to be the most talented and deepest team in the league much like the 2003 champion team.

The Eagles will see the defending champions but the Tamaraws have had their numbers all season long.

"FEU definitely has the advantage in the series. They're the team to beat," Tenorio said. With reports from Cebu/FD Espeo

PROMINENT figures from former Ateneo and FEU teams can't figure out who has the edge in this series.

TENORIO

SANTOS

> Santos: If FEU takes Game 1, it will be a sweep

> Tenorio: I hope Ateneo wins

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IN THIS ISSUE

Janice de Belen gets candid /G6

Something to sing about

By Rita P. Avila

THE HAPPY folks of "Glee's" McKinley High set heads—and they're femme (and more macho-identified) fleas every Friday, the specimens of Darwin's nuts, insatiable narcissists, charismaniac Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) and the cheerleading squad's fun Sylvester (Jane Lynch), call a truce and forge an alliance to win on the new football coach's pseudo Hanoverian (Samson Moeller) the exceptional Eve Marie Jones) is an female genius coach for nothing.

The glee club's queen bee, Rachel (Lea Michele, outstanding as always), and her handsome consort, Finn (Cory Monteith), have problems of their own: Finn worries about getting unpopular, because he's just been kicked out of the football team and replaced by Sam Evans, played by Chord Overstreet, who's as hunky as he is musically gifted. His owner of Travis McCoy and Bruno Mars' "Billionaire" is a must-hear).

Bigger dilemma

Rachel has a bigger dilemma, though. She wants to help the shrink find talented new recruits—but not if the newbie is an "showstopping" as Sandhaus Cassidy (the perfectly cast Chacter), the Filipina exchange student with a big smile and an even bigger voice!

But, Sandhaus's soul-rending audition performance of Beyoncé's "Listen," is such a hot mess it causes diarr ("Blackbird") with Rachel, proves that the self-effacing Pinay is no pushover!

To say the least, watching the mod-voiced homegrown talent break into Hollywood's entertainment mainstream is an exhilarating experience, and her talent on the TV program is definitely something to sing about.

To make its second season premiere more exciting, the multi-award winning series attempts to tackle a lot of issues, with mixed results: Its decision to cast Lea Michele (who left Spring Awakening and Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind" makes it more accomplished to pop music-savvy television.

On the down side, however, we find it irresponsible for the show to treat false allegations of sexual harassment so casually—and so lightly—as it did.

When Sue Sylvester gives a cheerleader the boot for getting a boob job and calls surgical procedures an "insult to nature," the show couldn't have been more pertinent. Just watch our local telenovyas and you'll easily spot the fat and boobzilla from their surgery-savvy plastic counterparts.

The recent facial "enhancements" of Chanter (who's only 18!) also come to mind—which is ironic, because the teen belter's outstanding voice and stunning appearance are more than enough to get Rachel shaking in her Broadway-bound tights.

Cocky jock

Early this year, "Glee" creator Ryan Murphy, disclosed to Entertainment Weekly that Rachel's relationship with cocky jock, Puck (Mark Salling), will "blossom" in the latter half of the season. How will this affect her relationship with Finn?

It'll also be interesting to see how Jones, Overstreet and Chanter's characters develop as the season progresses.

MICHELLE AND CHANCE. Sizzling musical showdown.

Murphy likewise revealed that Nine Direction' flamboyant gay crooner, Kurt (Chris Colfer), will soon meet his Mr. Right—who is rumored to be one of the perks? Will the "lucky" guy turn out to be—Sam Evans? Let's wait and see.

Carey Mulligan on Shia LaBeouf, Michael Douglas and Oliver Stone

NEW YORK—As Tinatheen's "it" girl du jour, Carey Mulligan couldn't ask for a better life. The winsome British actress is in some of the interesting films of the moment, being directed by notable directors like Oliver Stone. She is described as a new Audrey Hepburn, and she's going out with another hot young actor, Shia LaBeouf.

"She's an incredible actor, and that's as much as I have to say about him," Carey said, laughing, about Shia, whom she makes milk in Stone's "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps." She also stars in "An Education" and "Public Enemies" (an adaptation of the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro. Beautiful in a vintage-inspired Mary Jacobs dress, and with short hair, Carey looked and sounded in love, indeed.

The 25-year-old who earned four Actress nominations from awards groups last year for her performance in "An Education" won rap silence her heartbreak) talked about their different backgrounds. Carey insisted she earned it in "Wall Street" can't wait.

She endeared, "That's pretty much the same with everybody on 'Wall Street.' We all come from different worlds. I was excited to work with Shia as an actor, as well as with Michael Douglas, Frank Langella and the rest of the amazing cast." Shia in the sequel of the film that defined the '80s are Josh Brolin and Susan Sarandon.

Throat cancer

On Michael, who is fighting throat cancer, Carey said he was still okay during the filming. "He seemed fine," recalled Carey, who portrays Michael's estranged daughter. "In the film, we have a younger relationship, so we kind of kept a distance. But, he was always incredibly sweet and professional."

Of Oliver, Carey gushed, "I really wanted to work with him—he's a legend. I couldn't believe that he sent me to 'An Education.' That felt bizarre. I liked the idea of being in a big, mainstream film and having one of the few women in it, and trying to make something out of what's essentially the girlfriend part. I wanted to see if I could hold up to everybody else. The cast had already been assembled by the time I came on board."

MULLIGAN. Tinatheen's "it" girl du jour portrays Douglas' estranged daughter in "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

In "Never Let Me Go," she, Keira Knightley and Andrew Garfield spend their childhood at an idyllic English boarding school. Where they know, they discover the terrible reality about their fate, which are won't disclose for investment benefit.

Carey disagrees with those who think "Never" is a sci-fi movie. "People are calling it a sci-fi thriller. But, it's really a love story—the sci-fi element is just a backdrop. Kazuo speaks so beautifully about the metaphor for our time. He didn't even discuss the sci-fi element in the beginning. It's more about love and friendship."

Asked about Kazuo, who was born in Japan and raised in England, Carey said, "I've only spoken some with him as the scene ballerina film. Instead, when we were shooting, he visited the set a few times and went to the rehearsal room, so we could ask him questions. He's articulate, intelligent and down to earth, and he had absolute faith in Alex Garland," who adapted the novel, with Mark Romanek directing.

"Andrew is incredible," she described her "Never" costar, who has been cast in the new Spider-Man. "We work similarly. We were both in love with the story, and we enjoyed acting together. 'Spider-Man' is a huge part in a big film. It's exciting to have Andrew in it. He's the most truthful and honest actor, so I'm sure he'll do something amazing with it."

Good roles

She's grateful for the breaks that "the ridiculous" had brought her. "It helped me get my part in 'Never Let Me Go,' Oliver saw 'An Education,' and that led me to 'Wall Street.' But, I'm still auditioning," Chrisling, she clarified, "I am not having my door beyond down by directors, but it has given me access to better parts. It hasn't become completely easy though. I'm still looking for good roles."

"An Education" also led to her highly visible presence in the last awards season, which she found exhilarating. "I didn't have a negative experience through it," she declared. "It was so unexpected. I'd show up at an event, meet Quentin Tarantino, and go, 'What's really meant to be overheard?'"

She put the maddening awards season in a teaching context: "My parents went to some of the events with me. It's nice when you get wrapped up in the sense of having your photo taken on the red carpet, then you see your dad appreciating what's happening. We take yourself out of the moment and feel that it is really special and say 'I'm very lucky.' My brother reminds us that the pinnacle of everything, which helps."

She singled out one memorable moment: "At the ceremony where they hand out your nominees certificates before the Oscars, I came cellmate, and Meryl Streep said, 'I have the best picture of you! I'll e-mail it to you.' I was like, 'Meryl Streep is going to e-mail me!'

On being compared to Audrey Hepburn, she said, mortified, humbled. "It's flattering, and I feel unworthy. I feel uncomfortable, because she's like a goddess. I think of Audrey's incredible beauty and charm, and how cringing she was on smoke. Onscreen, you can't take your eyes off her. It's a strange comparison, because I think of her as otherworldly—her, mannerisms, it's nice."

Complimented on her short do and asked if it was for a role, she giggled and explained, "Cutting my hair was not intentional. I did a fitty part in 'Public Enemies' for Michael Mann, where I agreed to dye my hair—and that ruined it. Then, I did 'The Greatest,' and they couldn't do anything with my hair, because it was falling out! So, they cut it off, and I was stuck in the short hair again. I've been growing it for two years...then, I had to cut it again for work. So, now, I'm taking hair pills, and it's going through an awkward phase."

When's the name of the hair pill, for the benefit of our readers who are, um, follicle-challenged? "Revanose," she gladly answered with a chuckle.

E-mail rvnepales_33@yahoo.com

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Pardon, your teeth are in my popcorn . . .

By Nestor U. Torre

IT WAS BOUND to happen sooner than later: Vampire flicks are so "in" these days that they're (practically) sending out invitations for cynical, sarcastic and deeply serious "B" filmmakers to spoof them!

The first in what could be a long series of vampire-flick spoofs is "Vampires Suck," and if it's a challenge you're of verbatim things to come, we're in for years of cinematic putrefaction!

In the new vampire spoof, the plot pretty much follows the standard format of nice girl meets sexy vampire, and they have a bittersweet love-hating riff-filled romance of blood, mischief and werewolves here on quaking three Romeos and Juliet on matinee romantic denouement.

"VAMPIRES SUCK." Chilling portrayal of unthirsty things to come!

Ripe for the picking

Vampire flicks are ripe for the picking and parodying, but the trouble is, much of "Vampires Suck" lives up to the movie's title. It's funny only intermittently, and it generally just either flat or flamboyant. Even metaphors can't be this stupid!

That being the case, let's hope that the next vampire film spoof will be more entertaining and genuinely fun.

Imagine Bella's (Kristen Stewart) dropped in 2035 by an Ice that lifted Brooks. It spooked, among other films, "Mario Bava's Dracula."

Its cast included Leslie Nielsen as Count Dracula, Harvey Korman as Dr. Jack Seward, Anne Bancroft as Madame Dupont-Lajoie, and Brooks himself as Abraham Van Helsing.

Visuals

"Bride of Frankenstein" (1935), for its part, was praised for its "eye-filling, visually and rich vein of dry wit." The film by James Whale starred Boris Karloff, Valerie Hobson and Ted Lanchester.

Another monster spoof by Mel Brooks, "Young Frankenstein," starred Brooks, Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle, Marty Feldman, Madeline Kahn and Cloris Leachman.

It earned big marks from comedy buffs: "One of the funniest movies of all time, a finely tuned parody of all Frankenstein films, with vivid clear characterizations by mad doctor Wilder, monster Boyle, bewhiskered assistant Feldman, etc. Spoof of the Karloff-Lugosi classic is particularly appreciated."

—Should that "Vampires Suck" candidate have as much fun as that!

Chance encounters with boxing greats

By Bebot Carvosano

MY FRIEND, Bert, was talking about Muhammad Ali when I supplemented, "Ali? Ali's terrific. He was one of the most entertaining speakers I have ever heard."

I remembered how Ali was in 1964. The Rare Wit Conference in Waiola Valley in Honolulu was open, serving a former field at the Kennedy Theater, where some prominent speakers appeared before a very great political beliefs.

One of them talked about outdoor and another spoke about extraterrestrials. However, it was Ali—sorry to surround, and looking—who captivated the audience by his soothe of diatribes and jokes and the gift of gab—he was brilliant!

After his talk, I walked to the cafeteria across the theater. My friend, Dike Rivers, spare-stepper, asked me to sing a song she just got the tunes about oil. Dike and I often put to good use the piano beside the cafeteria stairs to provide the cafeteria patrons a "musical" lunch.

Entourage

As I was singing, Ali and his entourage came down the stairs. I didn't pay the usual reverential, but Ali, a brown seven-oval, continued my high notes. I sang falsetto stands and gave him a look. He stopped reading "my" name, smiled, came and put me on the shoulder.

He was not my first encounter with a boxing great, however. Years earlier, I met another big (cruiser) pugilist. My family had just moved to Manila from Iloilo. We lived on the second floor of Elena Apartments in Ermita, one of two pre-war boarding houses that remained standing after the Liberation. (The penthouse units were occupied by Fernando Lopez and Ted Lopez, an Olympian

Ali Stone-wader.

Lopez—the Brown Bomber?

The friendly neighbor's smile became wider, walked over to me, and patted my head. Best I had

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Treasure trove of film marvels

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME PEZO hall's have asked us to examine up with important video for a mini film library for their group, which is made up of students and older lovers of cinema.

We're happy to oblige, because we believe that knowing's perspective filmmakers should first look back at the classics and pioneering gems of the past, before they succeed to find treasures with their own productions.

Awareness

All kinds film, save filmmakers should their first movie with pre-recent little awareness of what's been done before, so they lose out on the comfort and inspiration provided by the great films and filmmakers of the past.

First off, we should expose them to the early days of film, movies that crafted film language itself—seminal films from all over the world, like "Battleship Potemkin," "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," "The Great Train Robbery," "A Trip to Liberty," "Nosferatu," "City Lights," "The Gold Rush," "The Passion of Joan of Arc," "Greed," "Metropolis," etc.

The list should take you up to the dawn of film with sound. At that period, add the "expressionist" movies of outstanding directors, like Fritz Lang's "M," "A Woman Is Her Life," Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane," Carol Reed's "The Third Man," David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia," John Ford's "How Green Was My Valley," Victor Fleming's "Gone With the Wind," Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon."

Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange," Stanley Donen's "Singin' in the Rain," Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," Billy Wilder's "Sunset Boulevard," John Huston's "The Maltese Falcon," Joseph Mankiewicz's "All About Eve," Brian Labitzke's "Dianetics," Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver," Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather" Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List," Francois Truffaut's "Jules et Jim," and Akira Kurosawa's "Ikiroku."

Asian sensibility

Speaking of Asian directors, that's another huge area that we can learn a lot from, with many specific permissions to our own point of the planet's multicultural and world views. So, get hold of Filipino and Asian film masters' best works, and marvel at how the Asian sensibility has produced some of the film world's best cinematic achievements.

What about newer films that you can learn from and get inspired by? Our personal recommendations include "The Iron Giant," "The Wizard of Oz," "Ned Kelly," "Jackie Brown," "The Shawshank Redemption," "Pulp Fiction," "Fight Club," "Memento," "Donnie Darko," "Run Lola Run," "Amelie," "Lost in Translation," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "Kill Bill Vol. 1 and 2," "Sin City," "Kung Fu Hustle," "Hero," "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Oldboy," "Ong Bak," "Tom Yum Goong," "Ichi the Killer," "Audition," "Ringu," "Ju-On," "Dark Water," "Infernal Affairs," "Election," "Election 2," "Battle Royale

Diminishing returns

By Honor G. Torre

SOME TV shows start out as fairly promising productions, but soon become lists, repetitive, or worse, jerk, and then end up with a rather shrill, diminishing return.

Why can't local TV producers keep the entertainment ante on the up-and-up? Because they have installment empires for their souls, and for the shows it's supposed to serve and delight.

And, why the sick disdain? Because many shows lay people think their viewers are passive, undemanding and rather dolts, and will "take" whatever is fed them on the boob tube, as long as the "right" buttons are pushed.

Recently, we saw disquieting proof of this "rule" of diminishing returns on TV when we wrote brief updates on some programs we had already reviewed before:

Romantic link

On "EG (Make Me His) developing," he (a source, the good news is that the Ago Medina-Ai Ai delas Alas romance appears to have given up trying to effect a romantic link between the two wildly mismatched stars. Now, that is cause for celebration.

Instead, Ago and Ai Ai have become friends of sorts, although their unlikely pair-ing still stimulates chills in some in a while.

Ago has been given a love interest ("of sorts" against Ms Margaret Rumpp—who, candidly (no implications), has gotten this elderly Ago up in favor of a younger beau.

The guy is dishy enough, but he can't hold a candle up to Ago in his charisma department. Besides, he's cheesy up to an point, vs Margaret Gloucester in one view on points of taste and discretion.

Anyways, the Schneller set caught the drift, the plot from now on Ago, Margaret and the young, not to be located interlopers, with reduced participation by Ai Ai's character, who wasn't really missed.

Out of her depth

The episode was also a weak one for Margaret, who used to strike us as just real pretentious. Here, however, she looks rather worn and listless, and out of her depth. Too bad, because being paired with Ago, no matter how temporarily, can be a feather in any young actress' chapeau.

What else will happen on the show? At episode's end, it was hinted that Ai Ai would get some of Ago's pesky employees to offer aide

PRIHLADH AND DELAS ALAS: "HOT" reality-romance duel-mates

Digital innovations discussed at Cinexpo

By Rina Arevalo

MTV Mackoy attending festivals for more than 25 years

RECENTLY, VE went to the Ol Cinexpo 2010 to listen to lectures about innovations in digital cinema. Present at the Film Production council were indie film makers Pepe Diokno, Raymond Red, Marge Dimpas, documentary-maker Nick Deocampo.

In terms of directing and writing screenplays, Diokno shares, "Each of us has a unique voice and perspective. The process isn't the camera or the budget but the voice that tells the story. What you make your first film, you have to make it for yourself."

Joji is currently producing "Pamasa ni Hudas a Benangcon "He states, "Don't reinvent genre for audiences or festival programmers. Make something you'd want to watch yourself. Start with a personal story. It doesn't have to be about poverty all the time."

Social realism

Deocampo says that local cinema have been "boxed" into third-world social realism. He explains, "The political film genre was transforming as the country's Leftist discourse. We don't have guts and violent societies. The challenge is to break away from them."

Producing on indie is a Herculean task. Dimpas confesses: "It's important for people to think that when you're producing a film, you should make money. If you're unable to sell the rights of your film, you should be thinking twice or 'bet and break.' As a producer-businessman, you have to be smart."

Joji enumerates the numerous obstacles facing indie producers. "You have to blow up your video into a 35-mm print. Promoting movies to a mass audience is expensive. Mind-bending playing field. Most box-office hits come from studios owned by giant conglomerates. Only those have enormous resources for TV spots."

Deocampo wants to tap the students, "A new market paradigm has to happen—in educational film market, which is the largest market in the country. There are 24 million students out there!"

Red describes the audience in film fests abroad, "I've been going to festivals for over 25 years. A festival audience is specialized—they know how movies are programmed, and they're open-minded.

"If you go to Pusan, the audience is overpowered by locals, including students and young filmmakers. They're very investigative."

"With the availability of HD's digital cameras, the challenge is to show local films. For two years, I've been trying to show 'Manoro, pawid' in theaters. Now, screening indies simultaneously in digital theaters is possible."

The loneliness of the long-distance actor

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SEPT. 3, we hosted the train and floods to catch Monique Wilson's one-woman play "My Name is Rachel Corrie," movingly and perceptively directed by Rita Azcona, at the Ilustre Showroom. Despite the dodgy and iffy circumstances, we were glad we went: the evening was, because Monique's performance and the play's significance and pertinence were well worth it.

Here would a queer, have one woman show be that important? On point of performance, there's something about the "impossible" challenge of "one actor memorizing all those lines [!]" and using only his body and mind to "fill" and then, more an entire stage for almost two hours! But teacher reasons a lot about the outer limits of a thespian's range and power.

Yes, power, because that's what an artist is supposed to do, not just to please and cheer an audience, but to take a big, extra step and disturb his listeners.

Challenge

Fact is, "memorizing all those lines" is really the simplest and "easiest" part of the challenge. Much more difficult to manage is the creative use of energy, intelligence and emotional commitment needed to make the single actor's journey "known" and "flare" not beyond the footlights, to draw each viewer's heart into the emotional and thematic experience at hand.

In the case of Monique's portrayal, in fact, it's really was the web for the night, because she summons the aura personality, exuded heroism, had not just supported and defended the rights of Palestinian victims of the conflict in Israel, she had died for them.

—"No greater love, said all that," but the unique theatrical experience made it much more real, comprehensible and possibly to viewers than if they had merely read about it or watched it on a TV newscast.

Persuasive force

That, really, is the power of theater, and the production unleashed it so tellingly last Sept. 3 that it enabled the moving train outside the theater in its undeniable persuasive force...to protests, concerns and make viewers (people) care about the tragic drama they were watching, and fully empathizing with.

Monique was the perfect performer for such a public and artistic "act of sacrificial disenchantment," because it was obvious that she cared deeply about her character's pain, but was mature enough as a thespian not to allow her own feelings to obliterate and drain distance and detract from Rachel's deep and focused commitment to the Palestinian victims' cause.

Like Rachel, Monique and the entire production obviously wanted to keep that focus firm and unflinching, and the audience felt the Palestinian victims' pain, not just Rachel and Monique's own shared passion and commitment.

FAMILY TIES

Janice de Belen gets candid

By Rito P. Asilo

JANICE (WITH GELLI, LEFT): Embarrassingly playful and self-deprecating

WE THOUGHT we were going to have a lot of off-the-record moments when we interviewed Janice de Belen at her cozy residence in New Manila last weekend. After all, the 47-year-old actress started her three-bit career as a newscaster at age 9, captured adolescents' imaginations as teen mega heroine, Heartthrob, and became the idol for gossip because of her colorful romances with Gabby Concepcion, Aga Muhlach and former husband, John Estrada. We were not wrong.

When we told the actress that our real reason to dish for a romantic, she gently laughed and deadpanned us, "It's all right. The minute a person decides to be an artista, one of the first things she says goodbye to is her private life." Right, while I added (but in a public figure, I am by no means a public property).

Surprisingly, Janice wasn't the ill-humored interviewee we thought she'd be. In fact, our laughter (mostly, and that's the operative word) during the entire 2 hours 45 minutes of her multi-award-winning host-ful (Yes! 25th "Special") wasn't just about how funny the fated the interview like occasional upheavals of her life...she showed us her sweaty britches, before she moved on the hot humidity, and we were also sometimes duly cooing "ay! so cute naman!"

Growing up

Moreover, the dance we met was relaxed, endearingly playful and self-deprecating. She became more open and "when she started talking about growing up with her sister, Gelli, when the years jumped.

Janice recalls, "Always along we maintain because I started so young in show biz. Gelli had more time to enjoy childhood. She's a...bug enthusiast, she's...she'll probably tell you I was terrible (brats)!

"One time, my mom told us not to touch our newly painted wall. When she left, I told Gelli, 'Hinahon na nga,' She refused—so, Ayala! As any former actress or actress' assistant knows, the mom asked me to get a piece of water, so I ordered Gelli to do it! Out of fear, naman, she bit me (laughs)!

"I used to be allergic to chicken, but I loved it anyway, especially the wing part. Minsan, ayaw ni Gelli mailigay sa akin ang paborito niya! Sabi niya, 'Bubuhayin ko ang ayos!' Ang, she answered back, 'Subukan mo!' So, I did! (Laughs) Memories of my childhood ground me—and Gelli and I have a good laugh about them now."

On their antidote to each other? Janice confesses, "Gelli also engages me in her—uncle's character for me took for other people's help. But, 'Ganon' and 'Ito' helped enhance my social skills. Gelli and I communicate mostly on Ym (share or on Facebook. Minsan, umuwag 'yan, 'Anong balita?' (Minsan ng isa 'Hoy! Kaloy my kids with you?' We don't have to see each other to communicate. Minsan, we just...we'll also have a lot of fun."

Of the dynamic of Gelli's family is different from mine, because her husband is a doctor, she's from a business (Artist Heroes), while I play in here and mostly or on a daily basis. My kids don't discover anything less than the main, thing parents-long edition or things to sing some kuha basis so familia? So, talaga! Both father and I talked it quite a bit about their first Anniversary, we started our kids too much from the negative things that happen to us, but doing so only prevents them from learning how to cope and life's challenges.

Major operation

"John and I have breached a certain barrier that hinders us from being 'more' open. There's no point in my screaming that...I believe in civility but what happened to us has brought us so much pain—it wasn't just a minor incident, it was a major operation (laughs)!

"There, you realize how tiring it is to stay angry, which makes it even more difficult to move on. Ease to ease basis lang kun. For instance, OK na kami na sa Ayala or Gabby because we're all mature. Likewise, John's case is different, because I am married to him."

What have her experiences in life taught her as a parent? Janice realizes, "Becoming is a tricky thing—you never get it right the first time. I was 19 when I had (ang) first love didn't with April, as may mga bagay na hindi ko inaasahe ng tama. Ito try to do better when I have my second time around. But, you never stop learning.

"Sometimes, you have to say no to your children everywhere it's easier to say yes. Everyone thinks how to explain they said. have everything. As a result, I'm very liberal. I watch 'Kill Bill' with my kids, because they can decide for themselves what's right and wrong. Maski your house is filled chicken look forward to being in, not something they may away from.

Conviction

"Real, no issue is taboo at home—even sex. If they can't get the answers from me, they'll get it from somebody else. When my eldest daughter turned 13, I read to my girls the book, 'Where Did I Come From?', about a child who asks her parents about the birds and the bees. Portions of it were quite graphic, but I had to keep a straight face in order to where with conviction, because I didn't want them to find it malicious."

What are things people don't know about her and Gelli? She declares, "We're both temps—basis na ang ka-brat. Ang, 'Ang Tanging Ina' ni Gelli, dinguk (laughs)! #Ako-kaway ayo sa bahay (illness, status n'ya ang pasyente) ko si Ami ko—ion ang kumbinasyon namin, hindi dami nangalang pa-tweetsee. Pis ngkuha, but for touchy feely people I'm done na."

In the end, we had to let Janice and Janice return their reaction when Lizgirlfriend who's four kids to a baby boy last May—told her that she and Aga were going to become grandparents once the times, "ng first was 22 when he told me about it. I asked myself, 'Well, what did your parents feel when you told them that you were pregnant at 19?' I had no right to complain."

In the end, we had to let Janice and Janice return, then smiles, "I'm emotionally exhausted! I'm at peace with myself now, but I know things could be better. Ang pinaka-peng, 'Anong ito, Ohana? Ohmygee, was mamang ang may-ion libido. But, I don't look for it. I know that even if I tried under a rock, if it's meant for me, it'll find me."

E-mail rpsgrinch@yahoo.com

STREET SMARTS

Mandy Navasero

Learning by doing

I LEARNED about teaching and studying at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California, and I will be discussing industrial photography with my students at the Brooks Hollywood Photo Safari on Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

My purpose in destination photography has not a standard of excellence in photography; education by integrating art and technique. Whether you're new to photography or are merely seeking new skills to help hone and establish a career in it, our "learning by doing" philosophy will provide participants with the artistic

AM/FM

'Mr. Cariñoso' is a guilty pleasure

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IT'S DIFFICULT to understand why women might subscribe to Dy Cruz Miranda, the host of "Mr. Cariñoso," aired weekdays from 1 to 2 a.m. on DZRH 666 on the AM band). He naturally calls every woman a "sexy" to help callers, while men find his voice playful and funny. His sending jokes about the birds and the bees are a hit among insomniacs.

We first heard about the program from a friend, who also found out that his girlfriend has been an avid listener. So, we tuned in last week and found out that the host was indeed carnivorous (affectionate).

Miranda speaks with a deep, deep and gentle voice and encouraged his callers to speak up, in one point, he even deepened his latches attention in ways to keep their husbands from cheating on them. "Bond (using just one, response or talisman."

Miranda reads from a book he calls the "Love Calendar" and engages in numerology and horoscope reading. He talks about the best dates to propose marriage, accept proposals, breakup, or get intimate.

Messy situation

"Anong birthday mo?" he asked a lady caller. After getting the answer (Oct. 20), the host told her: "Money problems will haunt your romantic life. Stay away from your lover for a while. Baka may kinis with you!"

Another caller, Dinah from Cebu, Sept. 5, has been loveless for eight years. She wanted to know if her new suitor was right for her. "Mysis sa kalendaryo," Mr. Cariñoso answered instantly. "Ang lucky days nya ay magbibilot at ito ng kulgoyedoro. Baswasin kun...he just might be the right guy for you."

Another woman said she wanted to experience intimacy but didn't want to get pregnant. Miranda answer: "Ang mga petsa ng 23, 26, 27 at 11-ng buwa! Iuwas ang mga gumalaw at wa pero mag... "Hi-uupa... show ako!"

In between songs, the host entertains callers with jokes and modified members with the show's listeners in the hope of finding friends or lovers. He also discusses the merits of traditional herbs.

We must admit that this bedridden of flirtatious talk, ostensibly to help and boost up the morale of the lonely-sounding and Dabaleus. But, in the end, we found ourselves wondering: What was all that about?

Listening to "Mr. Cariñoso" is like eating shoemark-hairy before—you enjoy the experience, but the feeling of guilt is never far behind?

E-mail rgmangubat@yahoo.com

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Which Hollywood actors are married to supermodels?

By Jocelyn Valle

THIS WEEK'S Q&A:

Where can I get a copy of Elite Sirea Antor-Gabby Concepcion starrer, "Tatsu Ito Ang Tatsoid?," which proves that the acclaimed dramatic actress is also a fine comedienne.—Mell Reyes, Makati City

Regal Films produced "Tatsu Ito Ang Tatsoid" in 1983, but a DVD copy hasn't been released yet. Aileen Dacio of the outfit's sales and marketing department explains that their catalogue of video releases is composed of films made in 1990 and onwards—or 14 years after Lily Monteverde's company (which distributed foreign movies initially) started producing films. She adds that earlier titles are available on video only if there's a great demand for them.

On the other hand, Cinema One channel head, Ronald Arguelles, shares that they have "Tatsu Ito Ang Tatsoid" on Betamax format. However, the network is not authorized to make copies of it. So, just wait for the movie to be distributed again on cable. For info about Cinema One's schedule, e-mail cinemone@gmail.com.

Category

Aside from Orlando Bloom, which other Hollywood actors are married to supermodels? —Ali Heridale, Singapore

Bloom met his fiancée Miranda Kerr at Victoria's Secret's fashion show in 2007. Other supermodels who tied the knot with Hollywood actors are Heidi Klum and Seal, Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger, Christie Brinkley and Peter Cook, Elle Macpherson and Arpad Busson, Naomi Campbell and Russian billionaire Vladislav Doronin, Claudia Schiffer and Matthew Vaughn, Kate Moss and Jamie Hince, Gisele Bundchen and Tom Brady, Rebecca Romijn and Jerry O'Connell, Cindy Crawford and Rande Gerber